



Ananya's priority

Actress Ananya Panday says she is a 'true friend' and her girl friends come first no matter what

LEISURE | P2



Drones hit Moscow

Ukraine attacks Moscow with at least 34 drones, the biggest drone strike on Russia since the start of the war in 2022

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Exodus of FPIs

Exodus of foreign investments from equity markets continues unabated, with FPIs pulling out nearly ₹20,000cr in November

BUSINESS | P11



Rare milestone

Pakistan race to a commanding eight-wicket victory and their first one-day series win in Australia for 22 years

SPORTS | P12

Hindi taking over House

While India, the most diverse nation of all, is a cradle of hundreds of languages, its Parliament turning into a monolingual entity by yielding to the apparent imposition of Hindi will only be an irony of the worst kind. Ringing the alarm, CPI(M) MP from Kerala John Brittas has alleged an ongoing systematic attempt to make Hindi the de facto language of the House. This comes days after he replied in Malayalam to register his protest to repeated official letters in Hindi from a BJP minister breaking away from an established norm of writing to South MPs in English. Flagger excessive use of Hindi, both in and outside the House, he highlighted the obstacles faced by legislators belonging to non-Hindi speaking states. Brittas went on to allege that when some of the treasury bench members choose to speak in English, which is rare nowadays, they get "a signal to switch to Hindi", a subtle instruction to interact in Hindi alone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: CPI(M) MP John Brittas Sunday said many members of Parliament from the treasury benches were choosing Hindi more and more for their speeches, posing a huge problem for the southern MPs and those from other non-Hindi speaking states.

In an interview with PTI, Brittas said even ministers who are well-versed in English were using Hindi. He called it an attempt to make Hindi the de facto language of the Parliament.

"This is not an isolated incident. I feel this is part of an orchestrated move. There is a planned move to ensure that Hindi is made the de facto language," Brittas told PTI.

"There have been systematic attempts to impose Hindi, not only in Parliament, also

outside. In Parliament, I know that there is a new practice that has been adopted. Mostly treasury benches and the ministers speak in Hindi alone, with an exception of one or two ministers," Brittas said.

The Left leader said that earlier, there was a practice of responding in English if a question was asked in English. But now that healthy precedent has gone away, the sensitivity has been shed.

Brittas also alleged that when some of the treasury bench members choose to speak in English, they get a signal to switch to Hindi. There is a subtle instruction that is there that they should interact in Hindi alone.

Sticking to his guns, the Marxist leader chose to reply in Malayalam to the Hindi responses he received to his special mentions and a zero-hour



notice in Rajya Sabha from Raveet Singh Bittu, Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries.

Brittas said that letters addressed to the Union government to South MPs are written in English, and a norm was broken when he received the responses in Hindi.

Former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai threw his weight behind the politician and slammed the Central government for excessive use of Hindi as a language of communication.

Brittas said he felt compelled to reply in Malayalam as it was not an isolated incident.

"This is not only this particular minister, we get so much of communication in Hindi. Since they are all random communications, we overlook it," he said.

"But in this particular case, it was not one letter or two letters, it was a series of letters,

not only addressed to me but addressed to many other members whom I know from south India. That's why I was compelled to reply in Malayalam," he said.

Brittas questioned the emphasis on Hindi by the Union government and recalled his days as a journalist in Delhi in the late 1980s when he covered Parliament.

"Almost 80 to 90 per cent of the discourse in Parliament used to be in English at that time. I'm not saying that is right. But I am saying it happened to be like that," he said.

"People think that BJP is one party which is intending to impose Hindi, but, nevertheless, I would request the BJP leaders to look at the antecedents of their leaders too. One of the tallest leaders of the BJP, LK Advani, used to always speak in English in Parliament. That was in a way balancing the Hindi delivery of his senior colleague, Atal Bihari Vajpayee," Brittas said.

The Rajya Sabha MP from Kerala also pointed out that his state has not adopted Hindi as an official language.

The Official Languages Act 1963 says English should be used for communication between the Union and any state which has not adopted Hindi as its official language, he said.



AIR EMERGENCY: Anti-smog guns being used to spray water droplets to curb air pollution at Raisina Hills in New Delhi, Sunday

Nijjar aide held for shooting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Khalistani extremist Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, who has been designated a terrorist by India, is likely to have been arrested in Canada's Ontario province in connection with a shooting incident, sources claimed here Sunday. The incident is suspected to have occurred October 28 in Milton.

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) had in a statement October 29 said that it had arrested two men on charges of "discharging firearm with intent" following an investigation after the duo had come to a hospital and one of them was treated for a non-life-threatening gunshot and later discharged.

It did not disclose their identity and said both accused "were held in custody pending a bail hearing". The sources claimed that one of those arrested is believed to be Arsh Dalla, who is associated with the banned



Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and ran terror modules on behalf of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a designated terrorist who was killed in June last year.

Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs had named Arsh Dalla as among the Khalistani terrorists for whom extradition requests have been made to Canada. The Halton police statement said they were actively investigating the "shooting that took place in Milton".

The HRPS was contacted by Guelph Police in the early morning hours of October 28, 2024, after two males attended

Temple violence: SFJ coordinator arrested

Ottawa: Canadian police have arrested a Brampton resident, who is the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) coordinator for Canada, on charges of assault with a weapon during a violent demonstration at a Hindu temple in the city, authorities said. A protest occurred at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton November 3 and unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan. P10

a hospital in Guelph. One of the males was treated and released for a non-life-threatening gunshot wound apparently suffered in the Halton region. The other was not injured.

"The HRPS Major Crime Bureau is now investigating and both males have been arrested. A 25-year-old male of Halton Hills and a 28-year-old male of Surrey BC have both been charged with Discharging Firearm with Intent," the statement said.

CM urges women to offer millet to Goddess Lakshmi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday appealed to women to offer millet grains to Goddess Lakshmi on the occasion of the upcoming 'Manabasa Gurubara' festival while inaugurating the two-day long International Symposium on Shree Anna (millet) & Forgotten Foods (ISSFF) here. This move will go a long way in the promotion of millet, he said.

'Manabasa Gurubara', a festival of Goddess Mahalaxmi, is celebrated every Thursday of the Odia month of 'Margasira' (November-December). The people usually offer foodgrains including rice to the Goddess of wealth on this occasion.

The Chief Minister said the state government is committed to develop Odisha as the millet hub of India. The state has made a provision of ₹649 crore in this year's Budget for the

ARMY JCO KILLED DURING GUNFIGHT WITH TERRORISTS

Jammu: A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army's special forces laid down his life Sunday, while three more soldiers were injured in a gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said. The operation comes amid an intensified hunt underway since the killing of two Village Defence Guards (VDGs) recently. The Army identified the fallen hero as Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of 2 Para and saluted his supreme sacrifice. P9

SANJIV KHANNA TO TAKE OATH AS 51ST CJI TODAY

New Delhi: Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgements such as scrapping the electoral bonds scheme and upholding abrogation of Article 370, will be sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India Monday. President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of office at Rashtrapati Bhavan in a ceremony scheduled at 10am. Justice Khanna will succeed Justice DY Chandrachud, who retired Sunday, and his term will last until May 13, 2025.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



They're armed with a two-hour PPT on inflation, insisting they can't accept last time's price for their votes

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.0°	30.0°
Min Temp	22.3°	21.5°
Humidity	78%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		
Dry weather very likely		

Row over non-veg, alcohol at Stramer's Diwali party

DOWNING STREET DID NOT COMMENT ON THE MENU AT THE EVENT HELD OCTOBER 29 - THE FIRST DIWALI RECEPTION SINCE THE LABOUR PARTY WON A LANDSLIDE AT THE JULY GENERAL ELECTION

AGENCIES

London, Nov 10: Some British Hindus have taken to social media to voice their objections over a lack of proper consultation ahead of a Diwali reception hosted by Prime Minister Keir Starmer at 10 Downing Street in London, where reportedly non-vegetarian snacks and alcohol were included on the menu.

While community organisation Insight UK questioned the "appalling lack of understanding" of the spiritual aspect of the Hindu festival, others pointed out that greater dialogue is required ahead of such religious events.

"Diwali is not just a time for festivity, but also holds a deeply religious meaning. The sacred festival of Diwali emphasises purity and devotion and hence traditionally involves vegetarian meals and strict avoidance



of alcohol," Insight UK stated in a post on X.

"The choice of menu at the Diwali celebration hosted by the Prime Minister himself displays an appalling lack of understanding or respect for the religious traditions associated with the festival of Diwali. It al-

so raises the pertinent question of whether Hindu community organisations and religious leaders were consulted for greater cultural sensitivity and inclusivity," it said.

The group urged "greater consideration" at future celebrations intended to promote multiculturalism and inclusivity, mindful of the "cultural and religious practices of the communities they seek to honour".

Pandit Satish K Sharma, author and Dharmic speaker, noted "The complete lack of sensitivity and simple consultation, at any level, is of great concern. If accidental, it's still disappointing."

ly general election.

Government sources indicated that the reception was a cross-community gathering, which involved a wide range of representatives and also included Sikh celebrations of Bandi Chhor Divas. It brought together British Indian community leaders, professionals and parliamentarians and included Starmer lighting candles on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street, following in the footsteps of predecessor Sunak.

"We value and respect your heritage and traditions, and recognise the strength of our shared values and the celebration of Diwali - a time of coming together, of abundance, and welcome... it is a time to fix our eyes on the light which triumphs over the darkness," read excerpts released from Starmer's address at the event last week.



promotion of millet, he stated. Millet cultivation, which was started in undivided Koraput district, has turned out to be a revolution across the country and spread to 177 out of 314 blocks in the state.

The state government is providing necessary support to farmers to increase the production of millet, he said, adding, "We have to include it in the daily food chain of the people."

The Chief Minister has called upon food bloggers to bring new types of dishes and new cooking styles to make millet a delicious foodgrain.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you want to do something for the environment. Ganesha says plant a tree, clean up your neighbourhood, ask for a paper bag. You wish to lead the world into a better place? Do it by all means, but one step at a time.

TAURUS
You will not lose your cool today despite the overwhelming odds, feels Ganesha. Rationale and reason will be the rhyme of your attitude as you diagnose the problems and uproot them successfully. Success beckons and you are ready to reach out and grab it by hook or by crook.

GEMINI
You will ponder over religious and cultural values and issues today. You will indulge in a fair amount of discussion with your family members over the issue and present your thoughts and feelings on the subject. These discussions could end up covering topics like law, education, societal concerns, manners and etiquette etc., says Ganesha.

CANCER
The day looks set to be an ordinary day, for both work and play, says Ganesha. Yet, if you are planning to participate in an event or a competition today, march ahead, by all means.

LEO
A mixed bag of fortunes, a bittersweet pill, call it what you will, but today brings with it a lot of things packed within its 24-hour period. Ganesha foresees a hectic morning, and an even more frantic afternoon. So, respite will be a luxury for you today. If this was the bitter end of the pill, then its sweet results will be like a balm on your frayed nerves, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Give attention to your deepest feelings. A small excursion may be on the cards. Ganesha says today you will easily get along with other people. You will shower your sincere love and affection on your near and dear ones. Use your magical skills to improve your relationships.

LIBRA
It is your friends who prove to be lucky and beneficial for you today, especially if they happen to be walking the corridors of power, says Ganesha. Do not hesitate to start that new joint venture today. See your popularity grow by leaps and bounds as you get due recognition for your abilities and efforts.

SCORPIO
It is high time you diverted all your energies towards your object of love, advises Ganesha. Research-oriented work could well be an option too. Ganesha says you are likely to find someone special to talk about those good old times and have a great time.

SAGITTARIUS
You will be your usual self today, frank and precise. You are all ears for what your life partner has to say. This will make them feel special! According to Ganesha, be patient and carry out your work gracefully.

CAPRICORN
Lack of proper planning is probably the reason for your not being able to get your work done in time. You'll realise this mistake and today, you will spend majority of time drawing a plan on paper, says Ganesha. You may hit a jackpot, but think twice before spending the money on anything unnecessary. You may come across some good career opportunities, grab them before it's too late.

AQUARIUS
You may feel constrained by future plans. Ganesha says that plans are okay, but you must live in the present to avail the cosmic energy that ultimately manifests your dreams. At work, your generous spirit adds to the goodwill you have already accrued.

PISCES
You would do well to make a to-do list today, if only to gain a realistic perspective of how much you want done and how much you can achieve in the time you have available. Making unreasonable demands from yourself will only lead to further delays, says Ganesha.

VIDYA on career turning point

Mumbai: Actor Vidya Balan, who returned to the *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* franchise with the recently released third part, says the success of the first film helped change the perception of her, as filmmakers realised that she could handle more complex and unconventional roles.

Balan, who starred as Avni/Manjulika opposite Akshay Kumar in Priyadarshan's 2007 hit *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, said the movie opened up new opportunities for her.

"People realised that there was another facet (to me). I don't know if it was prompted by that, but *Ishqiya* came to me after

that. When people see you do different things, their minds open up with possibilities.

"It was a huge commercial success, so I'm sure it must have impacted people's decisions," Balan told in an interview.

The actor said her father still has a complaint -- that Balan didn't win any awards for her performance in the movie.

"I was like, 'It's okay.' But four years in a row after that, I picked up the Best Actress awards in most places. So, things always balance out," Balan said, referring to her wins for *Paa* (2010), *Ishqiya* (2011), *The Dirty Picture* (2012), and *Kahaani* (2013). **PTI**



DILLON SLAMS JOKER: FOLIE À DEUX

Comedian Tim Dillon, who played a brief role in *Joker: Folie à Deux*, has criticised the film by calling it 'worst film ever made' as he claimed the writers went too far in trying to counter the negative reaction against the first movie.

SCOTT, MESCAL COLLABORATE FOR THE DOG STARS

Ridley Scott and Paul Mescal are teaming up again for the apocalyptic thriller *The Dog Stars*, based on Peter Heller's novel. Set in a decimated America, the film follows a pilot and an ex-marine who find hope in a radio transmission.



Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday is a true friend and said that her girl friends come first no matter what. Ananya took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a group photograph featuring all her girl friends.

In the image, the actress is seen flaunting her svelte figure dressed in a black fitted dress. She completed her look with her hair tied neatly into a bun and flaunted a no make-up look.

For the caption, the actress wrote: "Worse comes to worst... My girls comes first #brIDEE."

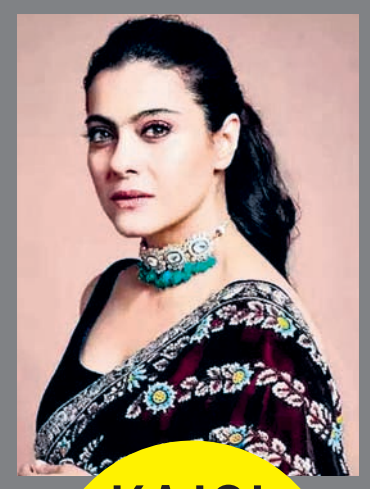
For Ananya her 'girls come first'

November 7, it was announced that Ananya is set to share screen space with Lakshya Lalwani, who made his film debut with *Kill*, in the upcoming romantic movie *Chand Mera Dil*.

They took to their respective Instagram handles, where they shared several posters from the upcoming movie, which hinted that the movie is all about "love".

The film, which will release in 2025, is directed by Vivek Soni.

Talking about Ananya, she was last seen in *CTRL*, a screenlife thriller film directed by Vikramaditya Motwane. It also has Vihaan Samat. The film was about a social media influencer couple. When the boyfriend cheats on her, she turns to an AI app to erase his digital existence on her computer and social media. **ANS**



KAJOL GETS POETIC

During the course of the episode, the cast had a gala time with Kapil and his fellow artists on the sets. A clip from the show which shows Kapil asking Kajol if she took any tips from Ajay since she is playing a cop for the first time in her career in *Do Patti*. To this, Kajol replied by saying, "No, because I'm the one who trained him for 'Singham'" as she burst into laughter. **ANS**

Akshay's regrets

Mumbai: Superstar Akshay Kumar, who can be seen in the recently released theatrical movie *Singham Again*, once opted out of the sports biopic *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*.

An old video of *Sam Bahadur* star Vicky Kaushal asking Akshay in Punjabi about one film that he is guilty of not watching or doing.

Responding to this, Akshay said, "The film that I haven't watched yet, I regret not doing that film, *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*. I would just tell you, I was offered that film, but I opted for *Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara*. That film, and that's the film I am very guilty of not doing it as well as not watching it also". **ANS**

The role was eventually essayed by director-actor Farhan Akhtar.

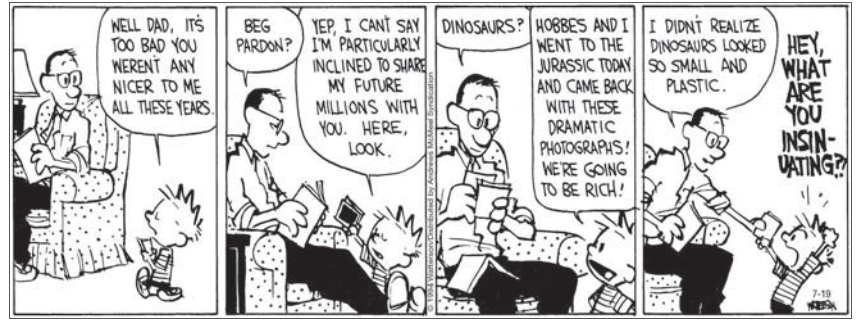
Of late, Akshay Kumar has been struggling at the box-office after a slew of his films have tanked at the box-office in the last 2 years. *Khel Khel Mein*, which starred an ensemble starcast, seemed like a respite to his woes but the film couldn't stand against the box-office tsunami of the Shradha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao-starrer *Street 2*. **ANS**



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

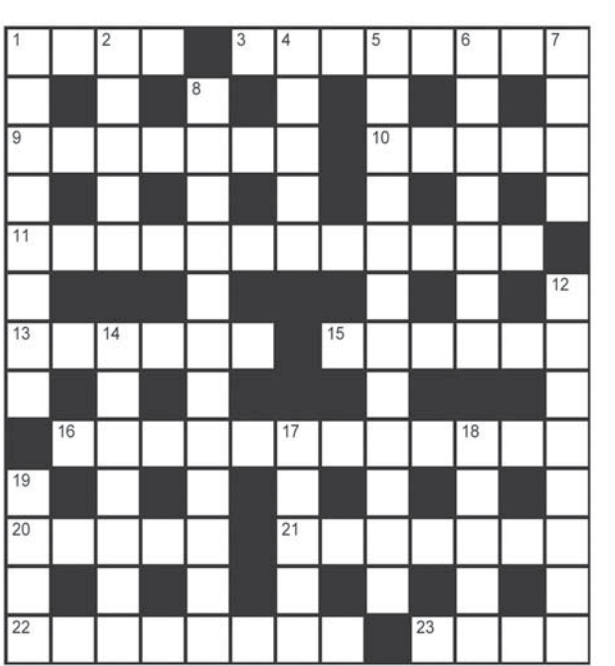


BREVITY



FUN POST

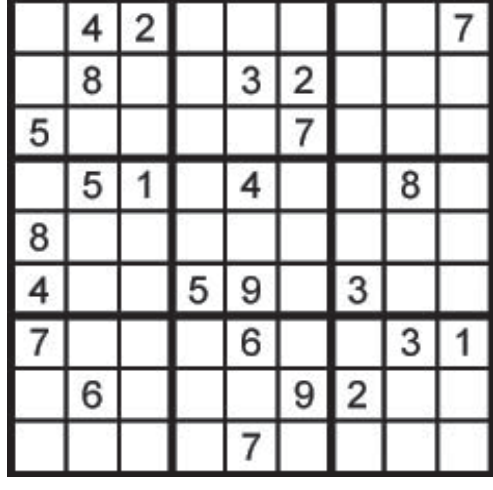
CROSSWORD



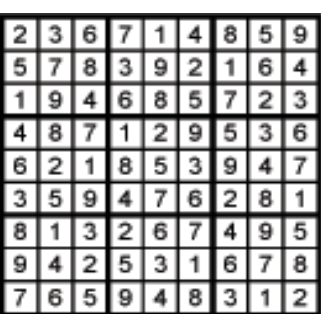
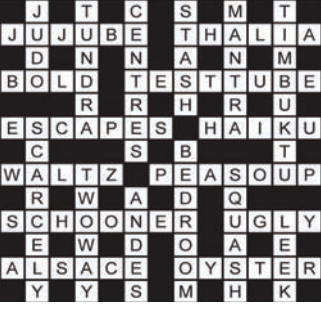
- Across**
- 1 Highland toppers
 - 3 Actor
 - 9 Town on the Rhone
 - 10 Throw out
 - 11 Extinct flying reptiles
 - 13 Urchins
 - 15 Embarrassing failure
 - 16 Gardening
 - 20 Scale
 - 21 Enthusiastic recognition
 - 22 Brunch order
 - 23 Honeyed drink
- Down**
- 1 Monk type
 - 2 Indian corn
 - 4 Redhead's dye
 - 5 Plant that attracts bees and butterflies (5,7)
 - 6 Leaping African antelopes
 - 7 Partner of void
 - 8 Like some deserts
 - 12 Ruled
 - 14 Suffer (over)
 - 17 Influence
 - 18 Join forces
 - 19 Sound rebound

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

MORE POWER TO GIRLS

Guests and participants pose for a photograph during single girl child campaign 'Tu Ta Mora Pari Kie Heba Torā Sari' on the occasion of International Girl Child Day, organised by Institute of Social Development at GKCM Odissi Research Centre auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



CUTTACK COLLEGE STUDENT'S GANGRAPE

3 police stations refused to take complaint: Oppn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Opposition BJD and Congress Sunday criticised the BJP government in the state and police for their handling of the investigation into a gang-rape case involving a 19-year-old college student who was allegedly forced to run from one police station to another before her complaint was finally registered.

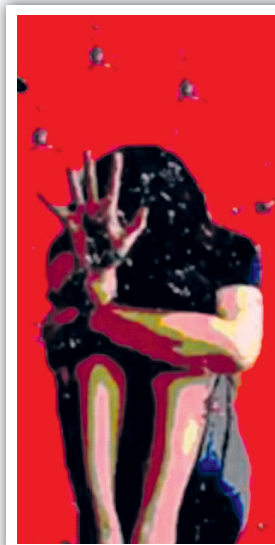
In separate petitions submitted to Odisha Police, both parties alleged that the victim approached multiple police stations—Purighat, Sadar, and Barang—before her FIR was accepted by the Badambadi police station.

The incident occurred during Dussehra festival when the victim visited a café in Purighat police station area with her boyfriend to celebrate her birthday.

As per the FIR, the boyfriend, with the help of the café owner, filmed intimate moments of the couple at the eatery. Later, he and his friends allegedly blackmailed the victim using the video, leading to multiple sexual assaults.

The complaint was filed November 4, and the accused were arrested within the following two days, police said.

A day after Congress MLA Sofia Firdous from Barabati-Cuttack Assembly segment submitted a petition with DGP YB Khurania, a delegation of Biju Mahila Janata Dal led by its state president Snehangini Chhuria met Cuttack DCP Jag-



During Naveen Patnaik's regime, police stations were under Mo Sarkar and complaints were immediately filed

SNEHANGINI CHHURIA | STATE PRESIDENT, BIJU MAHILA JANATA DAL

The delay is alarming and raises serious concern about the responsiveness of the law enforcement agencies

SOFIA FIRDOUS | MLA, BARABATI-CUTTACK

Our government is taking stringent steps, and the accused have been arrested immediately

PRITHIVIRAJ HARICHANDAN | LAW MINISTER

mohan Meena and handed over a memorandum.

The BJD women wing demanded thorough probe and stringent action. In the petition, Chhuria raised concern over delay in filing the FIR and also about another accused who was yet to be arrested. "During Naveen Patnaik's regime, police stations were under Mo Sarkar and complaints were immediately filed," she claimed.

The BJD women wing leader also alleged that the café where the obscene video was shot was illegal.

"The police administration was aware about illegal use of hookah at the café. The same place was used by BJP's Cuttack-Barabati MLA candidate as party office during the elections earlier this year. A BJP corporator also stays nearby,"

Chhuria alleged and demanded an explanation from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Firdous after meeting the DGP on Saturday said, "When the victim went to lodge an FIR against the accused, three police stations in Cuttack refused to register it. Therefore, I urged the DGP to investigate why the FIR was not lodged at first. The delay is alarming and raises serious concern about the responsiveness of the law enforcement agencies, especially when it comes to addressing the crimes against women."

Firdous claimed that the survivor could not be reached at present, expressing concern about her well-being and safety.

Meanwhile, police said it has arrested six people, including the woman's boyfriend. Cuttack's Deputy Commis-

sioner of Police (DCP) Jagmohan Meena told PTI that an inquiry will be made into the allegations leveled by the Congress MLA and the BJD leaders.

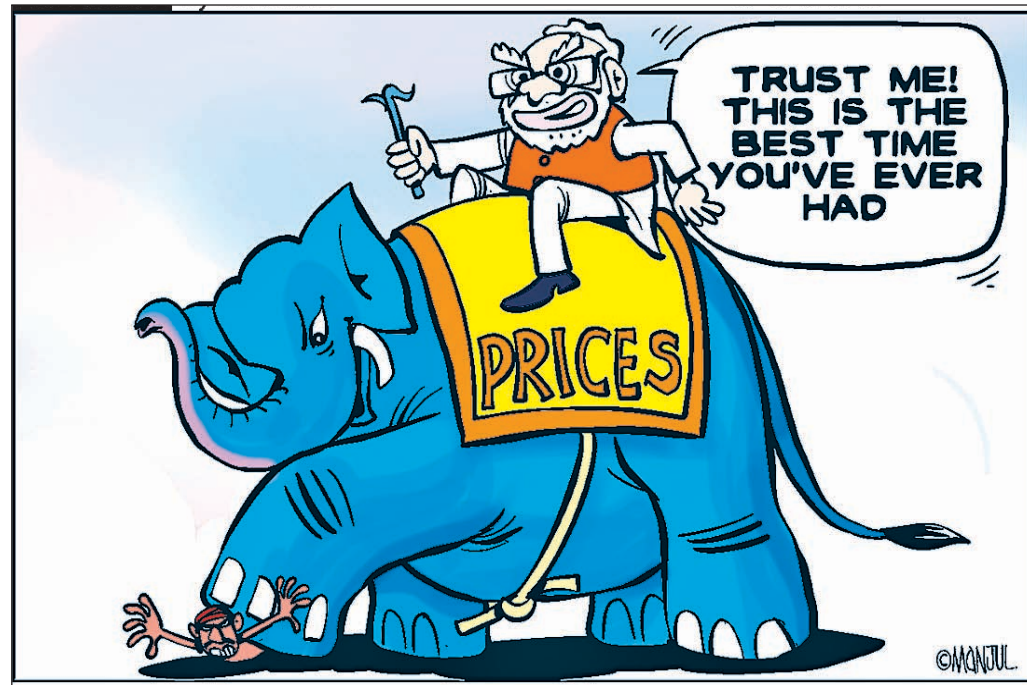
"We came to know about the allegation that police did not register a case at first from the MLA. Police will certainly inquire into it. However, neither the victim nor anyone from her family has made such an allegation. The victim is safe," he said.

"Police have arrested six persons named in the FIR. Now, the survivor's family members have informed about involvement of one more unknown person in the case and it is being investigated. Allegations on illegal use of hookah in the café will be probed by Purighat police," the DCP said.

Asked about the safety and security of the rape survivor, the DCP explained, "Specific security has not been provided to the girl's family as it would then establish their identity in the locality. We are in touch with them. The survivor is doing fine, as per her family. Help will be extended to them if needed."

Rejecting the allegations made by the BJD leader, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said, "People have rejected BJD in the last elections because of the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. Our government is taking stringent steps, and the accused have been arrested immediately. Efforts are also being made for early conviction," the minister told reporters.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Another house burgled in Infocity area

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Unidentified burglars broke into a house in Ganesh Vihar locality, under Infocity police limits, here in the wee hours of Sunday and decamped with gold ornaments worth Rs 21 lakh, police said.

In the FIR lodged at the Infocity police station, the owner of the house, Bansidhar Gouda – a retired government servant – said the burglars gained entry into the house by breaking a window grill. He said the incident is believed to have taken place between 2-3 am. The burglary was executed with precise planning



as none of the family members could hear a noise even

though the miscreants swept the cupboards, containing the ornaments, clean.

Gouda said he and his family went to sleep at 11 pm. The burglary was detected by his wife when she got up at around 5 am and found the bathroom door bolted from inside. "When I went to the backyards I found the window grill removed," he stated.

A senior Infocity police station officer said a scientific team visited the crime scene and collected evidence.

Around 15 days ago, another house in the area had been burgled in a similar fashion and the police are yet to make any headway in the case.

Woman found hanging; husband questioned

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: A 21-year-old man was detained by the Kharavela Nagar police here for questioning following the discovery of his wife's body at their residence in Rampur slum in Unit IV here Sunday morning.

IIC Rajanikanta Mishra of Kharavela Nagar police station said that Bapi Nayak was married to Swarnalata Mahanandia, 21, a native of Adhenigarh village in Boudh district around one and a half years ago.

Sunday morning, Nayak told the police that he found Swarnalata hanging from the ceiling of their asbestos-roofed house. The cops reached the spot and sent the body for autopsy to ascertain the cause of death.

Mishra said the police found it difficult to buy Nayak's claims that his wife had committed suicide. "Preliminary investigations revealed that the couple would often fight over Nayak's unemployment. Swarnalata's father had arranged a job for Nayak in a hotel at Puri, which he had left. He was unemployed ever since," he added.

The IIC said the couple had moved to the slum around one and a half months ago and lived as tenants. He said around a week ago, Swarnalata received serious injuries on her face and lips after she was assaulted by Nayak.

RESETTLEMENT OF GOTTIKOYA TRIBES

Odisha, three more states, asked to file status report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 10: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has asked four states, including Odisha, and the Union Home Ministry to submit a detailed report on the status of the Gottikoya tribals, who were displaced from Chhattisgarh due to Maoist violence and are now reportedly living in neighbouring states in difficult conditions, excluded from social security benefits.

The other three states include Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The Commission has requested the presence of the Home Ministry's secretary and the chief secretaries of the states concerned at a meeting scheduled for December 9 to discuss the issue, recommending a prompt policy decision to provide necessary support to the community.

In a letter sent to the ministry and the states Friday, the Commission said it had received a petition

in March 2022 stating that members of the Gottikoya community, who had relocated from Chhattisgarh to neighbouring states in 2005 to escape "violence between Maoist guerrillas and Indian security forces", have been facing significant challenges in their new locations.

According to tribal rights activists who have repeatedly raised the issue with the Commission and the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry, an estimated 50,000 tribals were displaced from Chhattisgarh due to Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). They now live in 248 settlements in the forests of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

According to some reports, the Telangana government has taken back land from internally displaced persons (IDPs) in at least 75 settlements, jeopardising their livelihoods and increasing their vulnerability, the Commission said, citing the petition. Some reports also allege that Forest department officials demolished the homes of the IDPs and destroyed their crops.



'Udbhav' kicks off from Nov 12

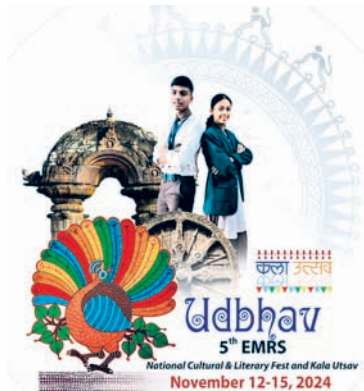
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The 5th EMRS (Ekalavya Model Residential School) National Cultural and Literary Fest and Kala Utsav - 'Udbhav' will be held here from November 12 (Tuesday), an official statement said.

This festival is being organised by the Department of STSC Development, Minorities and Backward Class Welfare Department of Odisha and is funded by the National Educational Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), the statement said Sunday.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Durgadas Uikey and Odisha minister Nityananda Gond are scheduled to grace the opening ceremony of the event, it said.

The event will be organised at 'Sikhya O Anusandhan' University here. More than 1,300 students and



250 teachers from EMRS of 22 states are likely to participate in the cultural extravaganza.

The cultural fest will provide tribal students with a national platform to showcase their hidden talents in different spheres. Students will be competing with each other in 47 events

such as storytelling, music, dance, singing, debate, elocution, etc.

This year's event is observed as a tribute to the 150th birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, the pride of the nation. Best efforts have been put in place to give participating students vivid and unique experiences, officials said.

Besides, innovative and creative workshops are also planned in which students can learn new skills and sharpen their existing ones, they said.

This four-day long event is likely to give students a platform, on which students from the entire country come together, to celebrate the spirit of learning, competition, and cultural celebration amidst fun-fare.

Previous editions of the festival were organised in Dehradun in 2023, Bengaluru in 2022, Udaipur in 2019, and Jamshedpur in 2018.

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Min inaugurates Exotic Primate Complex at NZP

The complex, developed over an area of 13665.20 sqft, is designed to house seven species of primates from around the world



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia inaugurated the state-of-the-art Exotic Primate Complex (EPC) at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here Sunday.

The naturalistic enclosure complex is designed to house seven species of primates from around the world, including Cotton-top tamarin, Golden-handed tamarin, Siamang, Black-tufted marmoset, Common marmoset, Geoffroy's marmoset and Squirrel monkey.

Notably, four of these species - Cotton-top tamarin, Siamang, Common marmoset, and Geoffroy's Marmoset are new additions to the park.

The complex, developed over an area of 13665.20 sqft, features seven nature-simulating enclosures with species-specific en-

richment, 18 feeding cells, and 10 back kraals meticulously designed to mimic the natural habitat of these fascinating creatures at an expenditure of ₹1.75 crore.

Additionally, facilities for visitors have also been upgraded with addition of stretchable tensile fabric canopy, glass fronted viewing area, water fall, landscaping and stamp concrete roads to enhance the visitor's experience.

Inaugurating the complex, Minister Khuntia said that the new addition represents a significant milestone towards state's commitment to biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and raising awareness about the precious wildlife that the planet holds.

"The EPC is now home to a diverse collection of unique and exotic primates from across the globe, including species like the

Siamang, Squirrel Monkey, and Golden Langur. The diversity showcases the beauty and significance of wildlife beyond our national boundaries and brings a world of biodiversity right here to Nandankanan. By conserving these species and providing educational experiences for the public, we hope to inspire people to engage in conservation efforts actively," the minister said.

"Today's inauguration is not merely a testament to our dedication to conserve environment and biodiversity, but also a call to action for each of us to take responsibility for our natural world," he added.

Zoos like Nandankanan play a vital role in educating the public, especially our young generation, about the importance of wildlife and ecosystems. We aim to offer visitors a learning platform where they can understand the urgency of conservation and take part in preservation and conservation efforts actively, Khuntia stated.

"I wish to commend the dedication and tireless efforts of all those involved in the realisation of this vision. Together, let us continue to uphold the principles of 'conserve, educate, and inspire' and work towards a future where humans and wildlife thrive together in harmony," he further added.

The minister appealed everyone to visit Nandankanan and be a part of the transformative journey toward a sustainable future.



IN MEMORIAM: Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan including Jayee Rajguru Smruti Parishad secretary Jatadhari Mishra, historian Nihar Ranjan Patnaik, academician Prafulla Kumar Rath and I&PR director (Technical) Surendranath Parida attend the state-level birth anniversary celebration of freedom fighter and martyr Jayee Rajguru organised by I&PR department at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

SCIENTIFIC FISH FARMING

ICAR-CIFA trains tribal farmers from Chh'garh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture in collaboration with Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur organised an orientation-cum-training programme here on scientific fish farming for tribal farmers of Chhattisgarh November 8 and 9.

The programme was attended by ICAR-CIFA director PK Sahoo and a team of experts from the institute, including P Routray, KC Das and NK Barik.

The programme was inaugurated by Sahoo, in pres-



ence of Ramkrishna Mission, Narayanpur secretary Swamy Byaptanandaji. Speaking on the occasion, Sahoo emphasised the importance of training and awareness for improving livelihood in the region. He suggested the importance of hatchery for demonstration and produc-

tion of fish seed in Narayanpur. During the programme, ICAR-CIFA APED principal scientist P Routray covered topics on water quality, pond management, seed production, and fish breeding.

ICAR-CIFA FNPD principal scientist and STC coordinator

Das focused on nutrition and feeding management. Principal scientist Barik discussed the scope of entrepreneurship opportunity for tribal farmers of Narayanpur. About 130 tribal fish farmers from Bastar attended the programme. Different inputs like fish seed, manure, feeding ingredients and fishing nets were distributed to farmers from STC and TSP sub plan project of ICAR-CIFA. Alongside, technical training, farmers were also exposed to the spiritual teachings of the Ramkrishna Mission, adding a holistic dimension to the event.

NIFT Bhubaneswar holds convocation ceremony

Bhubaneswar: The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Bhubaneswar organised its Convocation Ceremony, celebrating the accomplishments of the graduating batch of students. The ceremony was hosted at the IMMT Auditorium near Sachivalaya Marg here Saturday. A total of 196 students were conferred their degrees, including 168 undergraduate and 28 postgraduate students, who will now join the growing family of NIFT alumni. NIFT director general Tanu Kashyap graded the occasion as chief guest and led the ceremonial procession. Academics dean Sudha Dhingra, NIFT Bhubaneswar director Rajesh Kumar Jha and campus academic coordinator Santosh Kumar Tarai attended the ceremony. The occasion was also graced by several distinguished guests, including IIMC Dhenkanal director Anand Pradhan, CSIR-IMMT director Ramanuj Narayan, retired IAS Sanjay Kumar Panda and sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik. Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo extended his heartfelt blessings to the graduating students on the occasion. Best academic performance award were conferred to Sakshi Mahajan in Fashion Management Studies, Jayita Poddar in Fashion Design, Muskan Khatri in Textile Design, Harshitha Bhogi in Fashion Communication, and Ankit S in Fashion Technology. Additionally, the 'NIFT Extraordinary Service Award' was presented to Aryan Keshri, and the 'NIFT Student of the Year Award' was given to Mili Singh for their outstanding contributions to the campus and community.

ISKCON's 'chariot parade' in Houston draws criticism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Despite assuring the Odisha government and Puri's Gajapati Maharaja that it would not hold an untimely Rath Yatra outside India, ISKCON organised a 'chariot parade' in Houston November 9.

The parade, featuring a replica of Lord Jagannath's 'Nandighosa' chariot without the deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra, and Sudarsan Chakra, was held as part of ISKCON's 'Festival of Bliss', triggering strong backlash from devotees and authorities in Odisha.

The incident has drawn criticism from Puri Govardhan Peeth spokesperson Matru Prasad Mishra, who con-



demned the event as a "conspiracy against our religion" and demanded a ban on the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in India.

"Though Houston ISKCON had given written assurance to Puri Gajapati Maharaja and the state government that they will not hold untimely Ratha

The incident has drawn criticism from Puri Govardhan Peeth spokesperson Matru Prasad Mishra, who condemned the event as a 'conspiracy against our religion' and demanded a ban on ISKCON

Yatra, they did it, which is a conspiracy against our religion," Mishra said. Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Sunday said the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration in Puri would make a decision on the matter, with the state government backing whatever action it de-

cern raised by some of our friends in the local community, so we decided to make a slight change of plans," it said.

For ISKCON, the opportunity to have festival attendees have darshan of Lord Jagannath is a central feature of the event. For others, however, compliance to ancient tradition and calendars is the priority, it added.

"We understand there is a meeting planned in India next month between ISKCON and Puri officials to discuss these points in detail, and to seek mutual agreement whereby - as much as possible - the traditional calendar as well as the Lord's desire for people all over the world to have His darshan and participate in His festivals can be honoured," the statement said.

Auomira Entertainment wins Brand Storyz Award

Bhubaneswar: Auomira Entertainment, a creative think tank and advertising agency from the state, won the 'Brand Storyz Award 2024' from AFAQs recently. The award was given for Auomira's innovative approach to cultural storytelling, blending tradition with modern marketing strategies during the Bargarh Handloom Summit 2024. The summit was a groundbreaking event, attracting over 30,000 physical attendees and millions of digital viewers, with Dia Mirza as the brand ambassador. It featured over 1,000 stakeholders, 50 exhibitors from 20 states, and 200 award-winning artisans, showcasing country's rich handloom heritage. "The award is a monumental win for the state," said Auomira Entertainment founder and creative director Dev Meher. "We're proud to be the first from our state to receive the national recognition for our work," he added.

KHURDA ROAD-BOLANGIR RAIL LINE PROJECT

'Remote regions of Odisha to witness economic development'

ECoR achieves significant milestone with the completion of 27-km stretch between Purunakatak and Boudh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal Sunday conducted an inspection of the newly-constructed rail line between Boudh and Purunakatak, to review progress in the ongoing Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project.

Funkwal checked the progress of track-laying and en-

gine-rolling and testing for the track between Boudh and Purunakatak rail section.

"The Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project is poised to significantly enhance transportation and witness economic development, particularly in the more remote regions of Odisha," he said.

"By improving connectivity between key towns and cities, the rail line will facilitate smoother movement of train traffic," he added. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the pace of construction and ensuring that necessary passenger amenities are in place at all the proposed stations.

Funkwal expressed confidence that the project will be completed on time, despite the engineering challenges posed



by the difficult terrain, particularly the tunnel sections.

To expedite the completion, work is being carried out from both ends simultaneously, ensuring adherence to the project's ambitious timeline, ECoR officials said.

According to officials, out of the total 301 km stretch of the Khurda Road-Bolangir rail

line, 226 km has been completed to date, with 199 km already commissioned and fit for operations.

The remaining 75 km section between Purunakatak and Daspalla, which includes tunnel construction through dense jungle and sanctuary areas, is progressing steadily, they added.

A significant milestone was achieved with the completion of a 27-km stretch between Purunakatak and Boudh.

In the newly-constructed stretch between Purunakatak and Champapur includes nine major bridges, two Road Over Bridges (ROBs), 15 Road Under Bridges (RUBs), and 35 minor bridges, all essential for facilitating safe and efficient rail operations.

The rail line from Boudh to Champapur, part of the larger stretch, was completed in May 2024, and construction activities are now progressing rapidly in the remaining sections.

The project has gained close attention from the Ministry of Railways, which is committed to delivering this vital infrastructure on schedule.

The successful completion of

the Boudh-Purunakatak section is a major step forward and demonstrates the dedication of Indian Railways in overcoming engineering challenges to deliver critical infrastructure in the most difficult environments.

Following successful clearance from the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) and the completion of related infrastructure and amenities, decision on running train services will be taken on the newly-laid sections. A light engine trial run has already been conducted to ensure the track's fitness for regular operations.

As the project continues to progress, the Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line remains a key initiative for enhancing connectivity and creating new opportunities for economic development across Odisha.

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NHRC for toilets in all trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 10: Taking up a petition over lack of toilets in electric multiple unit (EMU) and mainline electric multiple unit (MEMU) trains, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chairman, Railway Board, under the Ministry of Railways, to ensure toilet facilities in all these trains.

The apex human rights body passed the order while hearing the petition filed by advocate and activist Radhakanta Tripathy. The activist has invited attention of the Commission towards hardships faced by pregnant women, children, patients, senior citizens, differently-abled and other passengers owing to non-availability of toilets in EMU and MEMU trains of the Indian Railways.

He has further alleged that the Ministry of Railways has admitted that all the EMU and MEMU trains are running in the country without toilet facilities.

The advocate had sought



the intervention of the NHRC in directing the Railway authorities to ensure toilets in all the trains, including EMU and

MEMU ones. The NHRC asked the Railway Board Chairman to consider the basic human rights issues raised in the pe-

tion and ensure the needful action within a reasonable period.

Citing the response obtained from the Railways, the petitioner said it was stated the DEMU and MEMU coaches, which have been manufactured prior to 2009-10, do not have toilet facilities as there was no such policy for provision of toilets on these coaches. There is no plan for retrofitment of toilets in DEMU/MEMU coaches manufactured prior to 2009-10, as the same involves major modification in the coach structure.

ATR sought from Collector over homeless in Keonjhar

Keonjhar: The NHRC has sought an action-taken report (ATR) within four weeks from the District Magistrate, Keonjhar on different issues based on the petition filed by activist Radhakanta Tripathy. The petitioner alleged that despite towering claims of the district administration, more than 500 people belong to Scheduled Tribe/Scheduled Caste communities in Jagannathpur and Balabhadrapur villages under Naradpur panchayat under Jhumpura block of the district are not getting housing benefits due to lack of SECC data of 2011 census. He also alleged that there is no action till date on the missing data. The villagers are suffering due to the prolonged negligent, inactive and apathetic attitude of the state government, Tripathy alleged in his petition. Significantly, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's village Raikala in the district has also been a victim of administrative neglect on various points. The facilities that are mandatory under the Panchayat Raj Act and other welfare schemes are not available to Raikala villagers, the petition added. He further alleged that due to lack of education, superstition is prevalent in the district resulting in dozens of murders every year. Potable water and other basic amenities as prescribed under the Panchayat Raj Act have been a pipedream. The rights panel has also transmitted the copy of the order to the Chief Secretary of Odisha for his information and necessary action.



FOOD FEST: Students of Gangadhar Meher University admire various indigenous fruits, vegetables and food grains displayed at a stall put up by women self-help groups at a food fair in Sambalpur, Sunday

Kantilo Nilamadhav to have golden arms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khandapada, Nov 10: The Nilamadhav temple community at Kantilo in Nayagarh district has taken steps to prepare the divine arms (Sri Bhuja) of Lord Nilamadhav, considered an ancient deity in Jagannath culture, out of pure gold. This project, undertaken by Nilamadhav priest community, is estimated to require over 1 kg gold.

A meeting in this regard was held at the PWD guest house here. Prominent members of the priest society, such as president Simanchal Mishra, secretary Prashant Kumar Mishra, treasurer Chitta Ranjan Mishra, and advisors Nihar Ranjan Mishra and Shrawanram Mishra discussed the issue in the presence of Rajaram Chhatra, executive officer of



Khandapada Endowment department and additional tehsildar. Chhatra presided over the session, pledging his support to the temple committee for this significant endeavor.

The priest community has announced to raise funds and provide ₹50 to ₹60 lakh for the purpose

Apart from the golden arms, the community has also announced its determination to continue fundraising and planning for the construction of Lord Nilamadhav's feet.

On the otherhand, the additional tehsildar pledged his support for construction of the divine feet in gold.

Dumper driver mows down 2 over past feud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 10: Tension prevailed after two persons including a woman were allegedly crushed to death under a dumper allegedly by a co-villager over property dispute at Naduan village under Ghasipura block of Keonjhar district, Sunday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Panu Prusty, 72, the elder uncle of the accused, and Sanjulata Palei, 45, his sister-in-law.

The two sustained critical injuries and were rushed to the Anandapur sub-divisional hospital where doctors pronounced them dead. A pall of gloom and mourning spread in the area after the news spread and the brutal murder flared up tension in the area.

The villagers caught hold



of the accused driver Bhanja Prusty, 40, in a drunken state and handed him over to the police. Police arrested Prusty and launched an investigation. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

The exact cause behind the

incident is yet to be ascertained but family members alleged that Panu had a dispute with Bhanja earlier. He had been always threatening to run the vehicle over him and his house.

The incident occurred when Bhanja in a drunken state first

crushed a scooter and then a house before running the dumper over them. According to the locals, the incident took place after another fight, Sunday. Later he tried to escape from the spot but villagers caught hold of him and informed the police.

On being informed, police personnel of Ghasipura police station rushed to the spot, seized the two bodies and the vehicles from the spot. Later they nabbed the accused driver and brought him to the police station, Ramakant Soy, Inspector-in-charge of Ghasipura police station, said.

The accused driver has been arrested and is being interrogated in this connection. After receiving the complaint, an inquiry will be conducted and action taken in this regard, the IIC said.

2, including infant, drown in ponds

Berhampur: Two persons, including a two-year-old boy, drowned in separate ponds in Ganjam district, Sunday, police said. The incidents took place at Gunturbandh in Berhampur Sadar police limits and Deogaon under Kabisuryanagar police limits. The deceased were identified as Babu Nayak, 30, and Rajbir Nahak, two, police said. Around 10 am, Rajbir, along with his elder sister, was playing near the pond in their village at Deogaon. He accidentally fell into the pond and drowned. "The villagers rescued him and rushed him to Kodala hospital, where the doctors declared him dead," a police official said. "We have registered an unnatural death case and started an investigation," said Sudhir Kumar Sahoo, inspector-in-charge of Kabisuryanagar police station. Similarly, Babu Nayak of B Turubudi, who had been staying at his father-in-law's house in Gunthubandh for the past few days, went missing Saturday evening. His body was recovered from a nearby pond Sunday, police said, adding that they have started a probe.

RMC notice against illegal construction

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 10: Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has issued a notice regarding 'unauthorised construction' of a building near Kali Mandir at Panposh in Sundargarh district.

According to information, RMC had approved the building plan for the construction of the five-storey building. However, the owner of the building deviated from the original plan and went on with the construction work as per his own plan.

Earlier, in 2023 the civic body had issued a 'stop work' notice to the owner of the building. However, he chose to ignore it and went on with construction. The builder also ignored several other notices issued later. The last notice was served Friday.

RMC deputy commissioner Anita Nayak and enforcement officer Swadhin Kumar Biswal were present when the notice was stuck on the building, and sealed subsequently. The deputy commissioner said, "The



notice clearly mentions that if the person goes ahead with further construction, it will be in violation of RMC rules and there will be no further help from the civic body.

We have warned him if he does not abide by our plan and doesn't stop construction he will not get any help like water, electricity and other such nec-

essary things."

"It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the construction of this building is unauthorised as it is in deviation to the approved building plan. Any investment in this project shall be at his/her own risk without any legal or financial liability on the approving authority," the notice reads.

Uproar over withdrawal of Volvo bus service to Puri

Sundargarh: The state government has withdrawn the popular Volvo sleeper bus service running from Sundargarh to Puri, leaving the people of Sundargarh, especially elderly passengers and Jagannath lovers, disappointed and outraged. The Volvo bus service, known for its comfort and convenience, provided the much-needed relief for long-distance travelers, allowing them to rest throughout the journey. Sundargarh BJD MLA Jogesh Kumar Singh condemned the move. In a telephonic conversation on November 8 with the Transport Minister, Singh had received assurances that the Volvo sleeper bus service would not be withdrawn, and the status quo would be maintained. However, the recent development has sparked confusion and frustration, as it appears this promise has not been kept. Citizens of Sundargarh have expressed their anger over what they consider a disregard for their needs. Many have criticised the decision as inconsiderate. In response, local BJD leaders have threatened to stage a district-wide strike.

Woman raped in Nilagiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 10: A woman was allegedly raped in her residence at Dhobashila panchayat area under this block in Balasore district in absence of her husband, sources said Sunday.

According to sources, the husband of the victim is working outside the state. Taking advantage of this, the accused, identified as Akash Bindhani, 41, entered her house in the midnight of November 7 and committed the crime.

Repeated prayers of the woman to not commit anything wrong with her went unheeded by the accused. When the woman started shouting, Akash threatened her by placing a dagger on her neck and raped her.

After committing the crime, the accused threatened the woman of killing her if she discloses the matter before anybody. When the woman narrated her ordeal before her husband and the villagers, a meeting was convened. However, Akash skipped the



meeting and, instead, threatened the villagers.

Later, the woman lodged a complaint with Nilagiri police who detained the accused and registered a case (No 346/24) before initiating an investigation.

On the other hand, the wife of the accused also lodged a counter complaint with the police against the victim's uncle-in-law for allegedly molesting her. A separate case (No 347/24) was registered at the police station and the accused was also detained by the police.

Meanwhile, medical examination of both the accused was conducted Sunday, said the police.

School with 4 teachers for 3 students raises eyebrows

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 10: Call it the outcome of a lopsided education policy or misallocation of human resources, at least six schools in Kolnara block in Rayagada district have more teachers than what is required, with a strange instance of one school having as many as four teachers for three students. This has raised serious eyebrows, as many schools suffer from a shortage of teachers.

According to sources, at Dangar Lekapai Primary School, four teachers have been assigned to teach just three students.

This school previously had three teachers while a fourth one was recently appointed, setting the chatters abuzz about the inefficient use of

human resources under the School and Mass Education department.

Similarly, three teachers are responsible for seven students at Podapai Primary School, three teachers for 17 students at Dumukupadu Primary School, four teachers for 20 students at Pedaguda Primary School and three teachers for 14 students at Paradiguda Primary School.

Education experts have questioned how such a disproportionate allocation of teachers could occur, especially since schools with fewer than 20 students are subject to closure under existing rules.

Additionally, concerns have been raised about the possible misreporting of student count to secure more funds. Reports indicate that some schools



Reports indicate that some schools falsely list students on attendance records to claim grants for mid-day meals, study materials and uniforms, even though these students actually reside in hostels of various Sevashram Schools

falsely list students on attendance records to claim grants for mid-day meals, study materials, and uniforms, even though these students actual-

ly reside in hostels of various Sevashram Schools and do not attend the schools in question.

Meanwhile, parents and locals have called for an impartial probe into the gross misallocation of resources, believing it could expose some education officials, staffers and a few teachers.

Recently, Rayagada MLA Apalswami Kadarka had raised the issue in a Zilla Parishad meeting, expressing dissatisfaction that more than 60 schools in the district operate with a single teacher while others in Kolnara block are overstaffed.

In response, district education officer Basanta Nayak stated that the matter would be brought to the Collector's notice and action will be taken as per rules.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2024-T-226

NAME OF WORK : AUGMENTATION OF POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT SAMBALPUR STATION BY EXTENDING DEDICATED 33KV SUPPLY FROM CHERUAPADA GRID TO RAILWAY INCOMING SUPPLY

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 1,71,07,089.89, EMD : ₹ 2,35,500/-, Completion Period of the Work : Six Months from the date of issue of LOA.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 hrs. of 05.12.2024.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen (15) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderers/bidders can participate on e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ PR-709/P/24-25 Sambalpur

FOCUS POLITICS

JOKE IS ON DEMOCRATS



Despite outrage over Tony Hinchcliffe's jokes about Puerto Rico at Donald Trump's Madison Square Garden rally, his insult comedy sheds light on Trump's victory. Both men position themselves as anti-elite rebels, which is catnip to the culturally dispossessed

The American comedian Tony Hinchcliffe caused a scandal in the days before the US presidential election with his jokes at Donald Trump's rally at New York's Madison Square Garden. As an opener to what the New York Times called a "carnival of grievances," Hinchcliffe insulted Puerto Rico ("a floating island of garbage"), Latinos (too "many of them" who "love making babies"), black people (watermelon eaters), Palestinians (rock throwers), and so forth.

Many people, not only liberals and minorities, were outraged. They even assumed that this kind of bigotry would hurt Trump's chances of winning - Latinos would all surely vote for Kamala Harris. They were wrong. Hinchcliffe's brand of humor helped Trump, or at least didn't hurt him: 46% of self-identified Hispanic voters cast their ballots for him.

Hinchcliffe, a 40-year-old who grew up in a rough part of Ohio and is now based in Texas, loves to shock. His act is what is known as "insult comedy," Roasting celebrities, as well as audience members, is what drives his brand of humor.

There is a rich tradition of this kind of comedy in the US. Hinchcliffe is an admirer of the late Jewish comedian Don Rickles, also known as the "Merchant of Venom." Rickles insulted everyone, from Italians, Poles, Blacks, and Jews to his celebrity friends, including Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra, and even himself. But his eye-winking disclaimers made sure that few people took serious umbrage.

A much sharper and more scandalous performer than Rickles was Lenny Bruce, the stand-up comedian who deliberately swore and used slurs to reveal the hypocrisy of a society that insisted on verbal propriety while tolerating racial abuse, police violence, and political corruption. Bruce was arrested in 1961 for

using "obscene" words in his act. Despite being acquitted, he was banned from television and hounded by the police until his death five years later.

What mattered most to Bruce was freedom of speech. The job of a comedian, in his view, was to push the boundaries of good taste and social convention. Hinchcliffe agrees. "My stance is that comedians should never apologize for a joke, should never stop working if everyone comes after them, and should never slow down," he explained in an interview in April.

But there is an important difference between Bruce and Hinchcliffe. Bruce was a hipster who modeled his routines after free jazz and immersed himself in the countercultural world of the beat poets, Black music, and the sexual revolution. He was supported by artists and intellectuals who saw themselves as part of a "progressive" avant-garde.

Hinchcliffe, by contrast, made his remarks at a rally for the Republican Party. The people who cheered him are by no means progressive. Rather, they have unabashedly embraced Trump, who calls immigrants "criminals" and

"rapists," repeats made-up stories about Haitian Americans eating people's pets, and talks of locking up his opponents and crushing his critics. Like other media figures in Trump-world, Hinchcliffe wants the freedom to be a bigot, which is a far cry from Bruce's plea for greater tolerance.

But to see Bruce as progressive and Hinchcliffe as conservative misses the point. Hinchcliffe, like Trump, is by no means a conservative, but a rebel against a stuffy establishment - much like Bruce, who targeted the powerful, the businessmen, the puritans, the squares. The same, in a way, can be said about Hinchcliffe, who upsets the elites who dominate America's universities, media organizations, publishing houses, museums, foundations, and NGOs.

Trump voters largely feel excluded and despised by these entitled urban professionals. They are the "deplorables," to use Hillary Clinton's infamous phrase, who do not subscribe to the views on gender, race, and social justice that have consumed the country's rarefied institutions and are tired of being lectured and condescended to.

Trump's victory is not a triumph of conservatism, but the very opposite; it is a rebellion of the culturally dispossessed who feel politically empowered by a self-professed outsider promising radical change. That includes Hispanic people who don't want to be called Latinx, and quite a few Black men, too.

Trump himself is a kind of insult comedian. The coarseness of his jokes is why so many people like him. And the more the New York Times and other organs of the cultural establishment are enraged by his antics, the more his appeal grows.

Many liberals who are rightly dismayed by Trump's election victory might be tempted to blame it on the racism and bigotry of his voters. But this would be a grave mistake. The Democrats cannot win back the trust of large numbers of American voters outside the big cities and college towns by being a party of the elites. And without the support of people who lack college degrees, as well as evangelicals and rural voters, the Democrats are doomed to failure.

Liberals must emphasize class more than race, gender, and sexual politics. The culture war may win urban voters, but it will not significantly affect national politics. There are signs that Harris understood this. She played down her own background and largely stuck to bread-and-butter issues.

But it was too little too late. Her very presence in the race - a woman of color brought in as a last-minute substitute - stoked the rebellion against the cultural establishment. Hinchcliffe's humor is indeed deplorable. But expressing outrage is less useful than understanding why he makes people laugh.

The writer is the author, most recently, of Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah (Yale University Press, 2024).

PROJECT SYNDICATE

TRUMP HIMSELF IS A KIND OF INSULT COMEDIAN. THE COARSENESS OF HIS JOKES IS WHY SO MANY PEOPLE LIKE HIM



Ian Buruma

To hope for a true change of human life without a change of human nature is an irrational and unspiritual proposition



SRI AUROBINDO

Protect At All Cost

Mother language plays the most crucial role in shaping any culture and identity of a people. It is the lone key to preserving and passing down traditions, expressions, songs, and rituals, all of which enrich human existence. Sadly, every two weeks, a language vanishes in the world, taking with it a rich cultural and intellectual legacy. At present, about 43 per cent of the estimated 6,000 languages spoken globally are at the risk of extinction. Studies indicate that utilising a child's mother tongue in early education significantly contributes to establishing a solid foundation for learning.

In India, the concept of 'unity in diversity' can best be explained by the coexistence of the myriad languages and dialects that exist on this sub continent. In a country with this nature, favouring any specific language due to political or other factors can lead to the prevalence of one particular language in education and other spheres of public life. However, this can put individuals who do not speak the dominant language or have limited proficiency in it, in a disadvantageous position. This can also lead to discrimination in day-to-day life, exclusion from employment opportunities, and, in worst cases, even oppression. Such a situation will certainly contribute to the endangerment and the eventual extinction of other languages that are bound to fall into disuse.

When the Constitution was framed in 1949, it was determined that the country would not have a single national language. Instead, 14 languages were officially recognised, a number that subsequently expanded to 22. Hindi and English were designated as the 'official languages' for national government and administrative purposes. In the past, efforts to establish Hindi as the sole dominant language faced stiff opposition, particularly from the southern states. In the 1960s, when the government announced that Hindi would be the exclusive 'official language' and that English would be phased out, Tamil Nadu erupted in violent protests, leading to several incidents of protesters resorting to self-immolation. The vehement resistance of the Tamil people forced the Union government to reverse its decision.

Today, in a state like Orissa, efforts are being made to subvert the language of the land and promote Hindi. Just because bringing in uniformity in language serves the agenda of a political party, a classical language like Oriya is being actively undermined. This subversion of the native language follows the pattern of festivals, previously alien to Oriya culture, being imported into the state. Bol Bom, Dhanteras, Sindoor Khela and more recently Chhath Puja, all fall into this category, and are being promoted in the state on the pretext of cultural assimilation. Pre wedding events like Sangeet, also alien to Oriya culture, are being actively promoted with an evident sinister purpose. It is pertinent to note here that while there is political motive behind homogenisation of language, in case of festivals the commercial agendas also play a crucial role.

This is not just a political issue. At the family level too, it is distressing to see educated Oriyas conversing with their children in Hindi. The dominance of Hindi cinema in Orissa, due to an unfortunate dearth of watchable movies in the local language, is another reason why school and college going children find it easy to converse in Hindi, thereby losing out on their personal grip on the mother tongue. Oriyas need to learn a lesson or two from South Indians or Bengalis who protect their language and culture taking great pains. Similarly, Marathis and Kannadigas can also be observed to be zealously guarding and making efforts to preserve their native languages and traditions even though Maharashtra and Karnataka are two of the most cosmopolitan states in the country. This subject gains extra importance now after an MP from Kerala, John Brittas, raised the issue of Union Ministers writing communications exclusively in Hindi to elected representatives hailing from non Hindi speaking states. While most Orissa MPs would be unfazed with language issues since they do not have emotional bonding with their own mother language and culture, representatives from other states are disturbed that the Indian Parliament is fast turning into a monolingual entity. The Hindi imposition posturing has gone a bit too far in current climes because certain politicians are handicapped with their personal language skills. They seem to be comfortable with the destruction of all Indian languages except the single regional language in which they can give their speeches with flamboyance. This is a great example of personal desire overriding national interest and well being.

Preserving a people's culture and heritage is impossible without preserving its mother tongue. Orissa is the first Indian state to be formed on the basis of its language. All efforts must be made not just to conserve Oriya, but also to promote it along with the dialects used within the boundary of this state. Otherwise, another language forgotten will render its future generations rootless.

WISDOM CORNER

A hundred struggle and drown in the breakers. One discovers the new world. But rather, ten times rather, die in the surf, heralding the way to that new world, than stand idly on the shore.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness; I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too. I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more.

ANNE FRANK

People have a hard time letting go of their suffering. Out of a fear of the unknown, they prefer suffering that is familiar.

THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1865: For her work as a surgeon during the American Civil War, physician Mary Edwards Walker became the first woman to be granted the U.S. Medal of Honor; the award was rescinded in 1917 but reinstated in 1977.

1918: World War I ends. At 5:00 am on this day in 1918, the Allied powers and Germany signed an armistice document in the railway carriage of Ferdinand Foch, the commander of the Allied armies, and six hours later World War I came to an end.

1926: Approval of numbered highways in the US. Under this system odd numbered highways run north to south while even numbered highways run east to west. Lower odd numbers are in the west, and higher odd number are in the east. Lower even numbers are in the south, and higher even numbers are in the north.

1965: Rhodesia declares its independence. Rhodesia, a region that is comprised of present day Zimbabwe declared its freedom from the United Kingdom under the leadership of predominantly white leaders. It lasted for 14 years when it was renamed the Republic of Zimbabwe after being recognized by the UN and the UK.

SPECTRUM POLLUTION

Winter woes in national capital



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

IN DELHI, MAJORITY OF THE POLLUTANTS COME FROM NON-POINT SOURCES LOCATED OUTSIDE THE CITY STRETCHED OVER A VAST REGION

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) is on the brink of entering the 'Severe' category, as over a dozen out of the 40 monitoring stations in the city are already reporting alarming figures of 400 plus levels. Vehicular emissions, industrial activity, and construction related dust remain major contributors to Delhi's pollution woes. These sources continue to release harmful particulates and gasses into the air, compounded by the city's geographical and meteorological conditions, which often trap pollutants close to the ground.

The AQI in Delhi in winter months following Diwali has steadily deteriorated owing to the increase of Suspended Particulate Matters in air. One of the key reasons for this is that despite the ban on firecrackers, its manufacturing, storage, delivery and use, people did it with indiscriminately. The average level of the deadliest PM 2.5 particle in the capital reached nearly 59 times the WHO prescribed danger limit. These particles are so fine that they can travel deep into

our respiratory tracts settling in the lungs causing severe breathing problems. Exposure to such fine particles can cause short-term health effects such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing, sneezing, running nose and shortness of breath. The long term hazards include elevated susceptibility to respiratory diseases, including acute respiratory distress, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and even lung cancer.

As per a study carried out by the WHO, among the 1600 cities in the world, Delhi has one of the worst air pollution. According to another estimate, air pollution alone accounts for nearly 10,500 deaths in Delhi every year on an average.

In winter, the cold air is generally heavier and sinks to the bottom not allowing pollutants to disperse. The slow wind speed at the surface also worsens the problem. The geographical location of Delhi makes the matter even more complicated as it is surrounded by mountains on all sides hindering the easy dispersal of pollutants. Delhi is not the

only city in the world battling with winter air pollution every year. Although cities like Beijing and Los Angeles also share the same geographical setting as Delhi, the problems in those cities are easier to handle primarily because of the point sources of pollution as the major polluting factor. Point sources of pollution include emissions released from specific sources like industries or vehicular traffic located within the city limits which are easier to handle and control. However, in Delhi, majority of the pollutants come from non-point sources located outside the city stretched over a vast region.

One of the key non-point sources of pollution is the particles blown away by farm stubble burning by farmers from the vast surrounding areas like Punjab, Haryana and UP. Farmers in these regions generally cultivate paddy in their farms during the monsoons, it being a highly water intensive crop. Paddy is harvested after the monsoon following which sowing of wheat immediately begins

in the same fields in early October. Therefore, the farmers have very little time between the harvesting of paddy and the sowing of wheat and, therefore, to get rid of the crop residues of paddy in their fields quickly, they set fire to the farm stubble. This is a widespread practice prevailing among the farmers of the region. The farmers generally lack funds and technologies to deal with the stubble in an eco-friendly manner.

Given these complex ground realities in case of a developing country like India, it is a challenging task to convince farmers to refrain from stubble burning. It is also equally difficult to effect a complete ban on firecrackers during the festive season. This makes the situation in Delhi far more complicated than ever thought. The government must find a way to reach out to farmers and the people in general to mitigate the problem and enable Delhiites breathe clean air.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com



Wise animals

Sir, Many of us who have plenty of human companionship, also feel a special bond with pet animals. Such feelings are real and appropriate. Research shows that just looking into the eyes of your pets can lower your heart rate. Their presence alone is enough to calm you down, to give you warmth, to let you feel loved and soothed. If you dig deep into the psychology of animals, you will come to know that unlike humans, they don't crave more than they need, they don't take more than they require, and they don't destroy anything unnecessarily out of greed. In fact, no animal destroys its environment like we do. In their natural state, each creature contributes to the overall ecosystem, helping maintain balance on the planet. Despite the power of animals to benefit humans, we use harsh language like saying "stop acting like an animal" - as if animals are unseemly and undignified. And such a language is scientifically inaccurate. Virginia Morell, who is the author of the New York Times best seller Animal Wise, persuasively argues that animals can think and feel in similar ways to human beings.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Prolonged custody

Sir, This refers to "SC: Don't delay bail application" (Orissa Post, November 10). This sort of explicit direction from the apex court was absolutely imperative for the high courts and lower courts. The lower courts do not attach much importance to the disposal of bail applications well within the prescribed time resulting in untold sufferings to the litigants. Their prolongation of jail custody continues unabated and many among them have no means to seek legal redress from the apex court. Taking the fullest advantage of an inept handling of bail matters even by some high courts, the probe agencies too very often play dubious role in submitting exaggerated reports with intent to object to the bail applications in oblivion of the golden rule of law that bail is a rule, refusal is an exception.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Gunfire rattles Zabarwan forests

The encounter in Zabarwan lasted several hours before the guns fell silent but the terrorists managed to flee; first such incident in this area in the past two decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 10: In the first such incident in the past two decades, terrorists exchanged fire with security forces in the dense forests of the Zabarwan range here Sunday, forcing residents to flee in panic as additional forces were mobilised to strengthen the cordon.

The encounter in the vicinity of Nishat on the banks of the Dal Lake comes close on the heels of a day-long encounter in the Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar early this month which left a top Pakistani commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) dead.

The encounter in Zabarwan lasted several hours before the guns fell silent but the terrorists managed to flee taking advantage of the thick foliage. However, the search for the fleeing terrorists was continuing when the last reports were received, the officials said.

Eyewitnesses told PTI that the forest area resonated with gunshots shortly after a contingent of Army, police and CRPF personnel appeared there and launched a search operation around 9 am.

The forested area has a cluster of over a dozen houses and many residents fled the locality due to panic. This forest area serves the locals in grazing their cattle and also womenfolk bring firewood from the woods to save themselves from the bone-chilling winter of Kashmir.

"I heard a few gunshots in the morning but I did not know it was happening in the neighbourhood. I have been living here for the past two decades and never witnessed such an

SHATTERING PEACE, CREATING PANIC



The security forces also restricted the movement of civilians in an attempt to prevent any loss of lives

incident," Abdul Khaliq, a local resident, said.

"I, along with my wife, immediately left our house and ran for safety. There are at least two dozen houses in this forest area," he added.

Abdul Rashid, another resident of Ishber, has been a frequent visitor to the forest area for quite a long time. This morning, he left his cattle in the forest area and was returning when the encounter started.

"Today, I also took my cow and a few sheep into the woods.

While I was coming down, I heard some gunshots. My cattle are still there and I am here waiting at the road for them. This is an unusual sight for us because this is a quiet place otherwise," a visibly disturbed Rashid told PTI.

Soon after the exchange of fire began, additional reinforcements from the Special Operations Group (SOG) of police and the CRPF rushed to the area and placed it under a tight cordon.

The security forces also restricted the movement of civilians in an attempt to prevent any loss of lives. Even media persons, who reached the spot to report the encounter, were kept at a safe distance.

"I, along with other women, went early in the morning in the forest to collect firewood but we did not see anything. Later on, when we reached home, we

heard gunshots. I am still wondering what exactly happened. Our relatives are calling us as it is everywhere on social media," a woman, who insisted not to be named, said.

Earlier, police in a post on X said, "A joint police and security forces operation was launched in Zabarwan forest area of Srinagar based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists. An exchange of fire ensued during the operation."

Amid escalated terror activities, especially after the formation of the National Conference government October 16, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha recently directed the security forces to go for hot pursuit of terrorists and ensure that no terror activities are carried out to breach the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the Valley.

Shrine board's medical college starts operations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 10: A new medical college owned by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Saturday commenced its operations in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, an official said.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence-Medical College started its operations in the administrative block of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Kakryal after performing 'hawan', a spokesperson of the board said.



The institute started functioning at the university campus as per the directions of the board meeting chaired by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha April 3, he said.

"This interim arrangement marked the beginning of SMVDIME-Medical College's academic journey to provide quality medical education and healthcare services in the region by setting the foundation for a fully equipped, modern medical college campus in the near future," the spokesperson said.

With an intake capacity of 50 MBBS students per year (upgradable to 100 seats), the medical college is designed to be a centre of excellence in healthcare education and practice, the official said.

This initial phase allows the college to implement its academic programs and student services effectively, utilising the high-quality infrastructure of SMVDU, he said.

The administrative block provides ample space for lecture halls, laboratories, and administrative offices, enabling a seamless start to the academic year while the final infrastructure of SMVDIME - Medical College is being established, the official said.

Omar pushes for winter preparedness plans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 10: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday reviewed the preparations for winter in the Kashmir and Jammu divisions of the Union Territory.

The review for the 2024-25 season was held at a meeting chaired by Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, an official spokesperson said.

"Plans have been announced, but execution is now crucial. Our preparations will truly be tested with the first snowfall. The prolonged dry spell is already creating challenges of depleted water levels and reduced power generation due to a decrease in water flow," the chief minister said during the meeting.

"The credibility of the government rests on us. Once plans are announced, effective implementation becomes paramount," he said.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Addition-



al Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, and Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta.

All administrative Secretaries, divisional commissioners, senior police and security officers, deputy commissioners, and BRO officers also attended the meeting. Officers from Jammu and other district headquarters participated via video conference. The CM was apprised of how the snow clearance and maintenance of inter-district highways, district roads, town roads have been put on priority and focus is being laid on en-

suring essential services and functioning of hospitals, PHE supply, grid stations, and Fire & Emergency Services.

In regions such as Gurez in Bandipora and parts of Kupwara, where access during winter remains limited, sufficient fuel supplies have been pre-stocked.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation and other Urban Local Bodies have geared up for de-watering activities, with pumps set and ready.

Essential winter stockpiles, including food grains, fuel, HSD for generators, and repaired distribution transformers are in position, people in the meeting were told.

In addition, subsidised helicopter services are on stand-by to fly into snowbound areas across Jammu and Kashmir to meet emergency and medical needs.

Medical facilities have been stocked with adequate medicines, oxygen cylinders, and firewood, with duty rosters issued for hospitals through March 2025.

Seaplane tourism takes off in Kerala after 1st plane touches down

With its extensive network of rivers, lakes, and lagoons, Kerala is well-suited for seaplane tourism, offering travellers a unique experience of the waterways combined with the thrill of flight

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 10: With the first seaplane landing in the Kochi backwaters Sunday, seaplane tourism is set to take off in Kerala.

The seaplane, which took off from Vijayawada, touched down at the Bolgatty backwaters in Kochi at 2:30 pm Sunday.

Tourism Minister PA Muhammad Riyas will officially flag off the trial seaplane service from Bolgatty to the Matupetty reservoir near Munnar at 9:30 am Monday.

This marks a major milestone in Kerala's ambitious plan to link its scenic waterways through aerial routes. Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has played a crucial role by providing technical expertise and infrastructure for the seaplane project.

With its extensive network of rivers, lakes, and lagoons,

Kerala is well-suited for seaplane tourism, offering travellers a unique experience of the waterways combined with the thrill of flight.

The new seaplane services are expected to open up fresh tourism avenues, enabling visitors to enjoy stunning aerial views. Kerala, famed for its backwaters and extensive coastline, stands to gain significantly from this tourism innovation.

This initiative is anticipated to boost tourism and contribute to Kerala's economic growth by creating jobs and improving connectivity to some of the state's most remote and scenic areas.

Tourism department officials highlighted that seaplanes offer the advantage of large windows, providing passengers with breathtaking views over Kerala's landscapes, particularly the Western Ghats and Munnar.



The amphibious aircraft, capable of taking off and landing on both land and water, can carry up to nine passengers. While the tourism sector is enthusias-

CPI(M) assures no one will be evicted

MUNAMBAM WAQF LAND ROW

The modern Kerala is built on the Left government's commitment to farmers and marginalised communities, which will continue indefinitely, party state secretary MV Govindan said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palakkad (Kerala), Nov 10: The ruling CPI(M) in Kerala stated Sunday that no one would be evicted from the coastal hamlet of Munambam in Ernakulam district where several families have been fighting against the Waqf Board's allegedly unlawful claims on their properties.

The modern Kerala is built on the Left government's commitment to farmers and marginalised communities, which will continue indefinitely, party state secretary MV Govindan said.

"The CPI(M) will not support any eviction. No one will be allowed to be evicted from their land, anywhere in Kerala, not just in Munambam," he told reporters.

A necessary stance will be taken by the government after resolving technical issues, including legal matters, he added.

Govindan noted that protests against Waqf claims have been ongoing in Munambam for a long time, adding that the issue is not one that the government alone can resolve. The Left leader also emphasised the government's support for the protesters.

He accused the BJP of attempting to create communal



The Congress-led UDF and CPI(M)-led LDF recently passed a resolution in the state Assembly opposing the BJP-led Centre's Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which challenges provisions in the existing Waqf law

divisions over the Munambam issue.

"In Munambam, the BJP's objective is to create communal divisions. The CPI(M) will effectively counter this," Govindan added.

However, the BJP dismissed the allegations and accused the ruling CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-headed UDF of neglecting the interests of the state's majority population in this matter.

Speaking to reporters, BJP state chief K Surendran claimed that both the LDF and UDF passed a joint resolution in the state Assembly against the Centre's Waqf amendment, disregarding the interests of the Christian community and the majority population in the state.

"There are communal agendas behind this, and it should be thoroughly examined," Surendran urged.

The leaders' remarks come

amid growing resentment among parts of the Christian population in Kerala regarding the LDF and UDF's stance on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced by the BJP-led Centre.

The Congress-led UDF and CPI(M)-led LDF recently passed a resolution in the state Assembly opposing the BJP-led Centre's Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which challenges provisions in the existing Waqf law.

In support of the Bill, the Church has alleged that numerous properties belonging to Christian families for generations in Cherai and Munambam villages in Ernakulam district have been unlawfully claimed by the Waqf Board under the current Act.

Residents of Cherai and Munambam have alleged that, despite holding registered deeds and land tax payment receipts, the Waqf Board has unlawfully claimed their properties.



Congress candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a roadshow for Wayanad Lok Sabha seat by-polls, at Mananthavady in Wayanad district, Kerala, Sunday

PTI PHOTO



It is important for Maharashtra to defeat the ruling Mahayuti in the state and support the MVA for stability and good governance

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS CHIEF

RUSSIA'S 1ST DEPUTY PM ON INDIA VISIT

Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will jointly hold here November 12 a key session of the intergovernmental Russian-Indian commission on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation during his "working visit" to India



of the day uote

SP talks of PDA... But tell you what their PDA is. It is the Production House of Dangai (rioters) and Apradhi (criminals). I am giving you this new definition

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CHIEF MINISTER

The former CM (Jagan) is threatening police officers... I am saying, if anyone gives these threats to officials and if even a fly falls on them or if they suffer so much as a scratch, you (Jagan) will be held responsible. We will take suo motu cognizance of these threats

PAWAN KALYAN | ANDHRA DEPUTY CM

It is important to note that my departments have not issued regular job postings for the past two years, as job recruitment has been centralised within the state of Goa, removing any question of my departments independently, releasing regular job posts

VISHVAJIT RANE | GOA MINISTER

Waqf panel's tour meetings lacking quorum: Oppn MPs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Several Opposition MPs of the parliamentary committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill have suggested that the assurance they received after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has not been met and have accused the panel chairman of going ahead with a tour of states despite his meetings lacking even the quorum.

Jagdambika Pal, chairman of the Joint Committee of Parliament formed to scrutinise the contentious Bill tabled by the government in the last Monsoon Session, rejected opposition members' contention, asserting that "study tours" of parliamentary panels are an informal exercise and are not bound by formalities like meeting the quorum.

The Pal-led committee is currently on a tour of five states to speak to various stake holders though Opposition members have boycotted it.

The panel chairman told PTI Sunday that he is confident of meeting the deadline of submitting the Committee's report by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, which begins November 25, adding that he has already prepared its

200-250 pages. Opposition MPs of the committee have, however, joined hands to question his functioning, alleging that Pal, a BJP MP, is doing the government's bidding, and they had earlier even threatened to disassociate themselves with its work.

Their main concern was the frequent day-long meetings of the panel which did not allow them to prepare adequately and had accused Pal of "bulldozing proceedings" by not consulting them in picking on whom to call to depose.

After meeting Birla Tuesday, the Opposition MPs had described their discussion as fruitful, praising him for hearing them patiently and assuring them of looking into their grievances.

In separate communications to Birla November 9, some Opposition MPs said they believed following their meeting with him November 5 that the five-state tour of the Joint Committee of Parliament headed by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal may be deferred as there is no "immediate urgency" to submit the panel's report, sources said.

Opposition members in their letters to Birla have expressed dismay and surprise at the

tour, noting that his meeting in Guwahati had only five members, "far less" than even the quorum. They have boycotted the tour.

Those who have written to the Speaker include DMK's A Raja, Congress's Mohammad Jawed and TMC's Kalyan Banerjee, sources said.

Pal said as the committee's chairman he is not feeling good about the boycott of Opposition MPs who were part of its earlier study tour across southern states, noting that his only motivation is to record the views of a maximum of stakeholders as many of them cannot come to Delhi.

Asked if he was certain that the committee will meet its deadline, Pal said he was "absolutely certain".

Opposition MPs in their letters to the Speaker said they believed after meeting him that the committee's meetings will now be held either one day in a week or two consecutive days in a fortnight to allow them to prepare and study the submissions made in its sittings, the sources said.

They said they received a "ray of hope" that their grievances would be addressed, they added. However, Pal went ahead with the tour to their dismay and surprise, they said.

This is the third coordinated communication these MPs have made to Birla, targeting Pal's way of functioning. Expressing disappointment at the charge of the opposition MPs, Pal claimed that there is "no bigger democrat" than him as he pointed out that he has repeatedly allowed them to raise as many points and ask as many questions in its meetings as they wanted.

Tension in K'taka village after Dalits enter temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mandya (Karnataka), Nov 10: Tension prevailed in a village in Mandya Sunday after the district authorities made way for the Dalits to enter the temple and worship the deity 'Kalabhairaveshwara' for the first time.

The upper caste people, mostly Vokkaligas, allegedly took away the 'Utsava Murthy', the metallic festival idol of the deity for performing rituals outside the temple in Hanakere village.

Heavy police force has been deployed in Hanakere in view of the prevailing tension.

According to sources, there was an old Kalabhairaveshwara Swamy temple in the village and Dalits were never allowed to enter it.

About three years ago, the old dilapidated structure was demolished and a new temple was built. Recently, the shrine came under the control of the Religious Endowment Department of the state government.

Amit Shah slams MVA's 'appeasement politics'

Slamming the Congress and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, the senior BJP leader said they opposed the construction of the Ram Temple for decades, and only after Narendra Modi became prime minister, the issue was resolved with the construction of a grand temple in Ayodhya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jalgaon/Buldhana, Nov 10: Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah Sunday said the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi could stoop to any level for the sake of appeasement and vote bank politics.

He further said Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole had agreed to the Ulema Council's demand for Muslim reservations.



Addressing rallies in Raver assembly constituency in Jalgaon and Malkapur seat in Buldhana, Shah pointed out to a recent memorandum submitted by the Ulema Council to the opposition Congress seeking 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education for the Muslim community.

"Patole has agreed to end reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs and give it to Muslims as demanded by the Ulema Council," Shah said in Buldhana. The demand for 10 per cent quota for the Muslim community would eat into the benefits of Dalits, tribals and Other Backward Classes, since there is a 50 per cent cap on quota and any increase will come at the cost of existing ones, he told the gathering.



A railway station platform is seen packed with passengers returning after the 'Chhath Puja' festival, in Patna, Bihar

BAHRAICH VIOLENCE 'Main conspirator', 5 others arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), Nov 10: Police Sunday arrested six persons, including "main conspirator" Shakeel Ahmed, in connection with the Bahraich communal violence case in which a 22-year-old youth named Ram Gopal Mishra was killed, a senior official said.

Superintendent of Police Vrinda Shukla Sunday told reporters that two cases were registered at Hardi police station under various sections of BNS, including 191(2) (rioting), 103(2) (murder), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 109 (attempt to murder), and under the Arms Act in connection with Mishra's murder during the immersion procession of a Durga idol in Maharajganj town, and subsequent violence.

Violence rocks Samaguri ahead of by-elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagaon, Nov 10: Incidents of violence rocked Assam's Samaguri Assembly constituency where by-elections will be held November 13 with both the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress alleging that gunshots were fired targeting each other's supporters over the last 24 hours, police said Sunday.

It was also alleged that three journalists who went to cover the violence, which happened Saturday, were manhandled by Congress supporters.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma slammed the Congress for "resorting to violence under cover of darkness" to intimidate BJP workers, stating that no one would be allowed to sabotage or undermine the democratic process.

"We got reports that an incident of firing took place at Mari Puthikhaiti village in Samaguri. BJP workers alleged that a shot was fired from the house of one Congress worker aiming at ruling party MLA Jitu Goswami's vehicle," a police officer said.

In the vehicle, Goswami and BJP leader Suresh Bora were travelling, although no one had been injured in the firing, he said.

Over the night, at least half a dozen vehicles were smashed by supporters of the ruling and opposition parties at several places in the constituency when they clashed with each other,

police said.

For the upcoming bypoll, the Congress has named Dhubri MP Rakibul Husain's son Tanzil as the party's candidate against Diplu Ranjan Sarma of BJP.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said, "I strongly condemn the attack on Hon'ble MLA Shri Jitu Goswami in Samaguri @INCAssam supporters. This is the same Congress that proudly holds up the Constitution for the cameras, yet resorts to violence under cover of darkness to intimidate our karyakartas."

Questioning why the Congress has "stooped to such depths" in this by-election, he said that it was not just fear of defeat but the "desperation" to hold on to their core vote bank that drives them to such extremes.

"Justice will be served, and we will not allow anyone to sabotage or undermine our democratic process," the CM said.

Slamming the Congress, MLA Goswami demanded immediate punitive action against the attackers, "led by MP Rakibul to terrorise the voters".

The BJP candidate said, "I strongly condemn the incident of firing.

Rakibul Hussain gave a very provocative speech last night, following which the shooting took place. We are now going to complain to the Election Commission, demanding urgent steps."



SHORT TAKES

Veteran Tamil actor 'Delhi' Ganesh dies

Chennai: Noted Tamil actor 'Delhi' Ganesh, who essayed a spectacular variety of memorable roles in over 400 films, passed away late Saturday night at his residence here following a brief illness, his family said. He was 80 years old. He is survived by his wife and three children, a son and two daughters. Renowned for his variety of support-roles that also involved comic and wicked performances, among others, Ganesh stood out as a doting father, a caring brother and a villain too.

Infant trafficking racket busted

Kolkata: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal Police, Sunday, claimed to have busted a newborn trafficking racket, with the arrest of a couple. Sources said that acting on a tip-off about the couple - Manik Halder and Mukul Sarkar, who were engaged in the trafficking of newborn kids, the CID sleuths contacted them as decoy parents wanting to adopt a child.

Explosion in hotel: Six huts damaged

Hyderabad: A huge explosion in a hotel in Hyderabad's upscale Jubilee Hills damaged six nearby huts Sunday. Two persons have been injured in the incident. The explosion occurred in Telangana Spice Kitchen on Road Number One Jubilee Hills. According to police, the explosion damaged the boundary wall of the hotel.

Five killed in road mishap

New Delhi: A tragic road accident on the Greater Noida Expressway near Sector 146 Sunday claimed the lives of five people -- three women and two men. The incident involved a speeding car that collided with a stationary truck on the roadside. The victims were residents of Kashiram Colony, Ghodi Bachhedhi in Noida, and were travelling to their home via Pari Chowk when their vehicle struck the truck from behind. The deceased have been identified as Aman (27) son of Devi Singh, Devi Singh (60) son of Ramshah, Rajkumari (50), wife of Devi Singh, and Vimlesh (40) wife of Gyani Singh.

BSF seized 200 drones at Punjab border this year

With the recovery of four more drones in the last 24 hours, over 200 Pakistan-based rouge drones have been seized along this border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Drone seizures along the International Border in Punjab have doubled to 200 as Pakistani syndicates continue to push narcotics and weapons to "destabilise" India by inducing drug addiction in the youth and "disintegrating" social harmony, the BSF said.

With the recovery of four more drones in the last 24 hours, over 200 Pakistan-based rouge drones have been seized along this border, it said in a statement issued Saturday.

The BSF guards the 2,290 km of this border running on India's western flank, includ-



ing 553 km of the front along Punjab. The IB also runs along Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir (LoC in Kashmir), Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The force had seized a total of 107 drones at the Punjab border in 2023. The BSF said the almost doubled up drones seizure this year is a

The BSF guards the 2,290 km of this border running on India's western flank, including 553 km of the front along Punjab

The IB also runs along Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir (LoC in Kashmir), Rajasthan and Gujarat

"significant landmark" and "remarkable milestone" that "reflects the force's enhanced anti-drone strategies and the deployment of advanced technical counter-measures along the border."

BSF troops, as per the force, have implemented "increasingly accurate" anti-drone drills, resulting in a significant setback for Pakistani narcotic

syndicates attempting to push in drugs and weapons into the Indian territory with an objective to "destabilise" it by inducing drug addiction in the young generation and "disintegrating" social harmony.

A senior BSF officer told PTI that the more than 200 drones seizure this year includes those unmanned aerial vehicles which were shot down by its troops using rifles, jammed in flight with the use of anti-drone technology and those that were recovered lying on the fields on the basis of intelligence inputs or information provided by the locals.

Almost all of these drones

are Chinese-made and they carry drugs, small arms and ammunition as payload. However, drugs are the highest sent consignment, the officer said. The drone menace, that started around 2019-20 along this front, is dominant in the border districts of Amritsar and Tarn Taran in Punjab.

BSF officials have said all the drugs coming from across the Pakistan border into Punjab were now coming through the air route via drones as compared to the earlier land route using pipes pushed from the Pakistan border and many times by being flung from over the fence.



BJP creates division in the society. Rising above caste and religion, voters should be united and ensure that INDIA bloc candidates emerge winners in the election so that the Hemant Soren government could be formed again in Jharkhand

BOMB HOAX AT KOLKATA AIRPORT

Security personnel at Kolkata airport were placed on high alert Sunday after they received information from a passenger who suspected that a bomb could be planted on a private airline plane



of the day uote

The ₹100 crore credit guarantee scheme will soon be placed before the cabinet. Immediately after getting approval from cabinet, the scheme that will provide guarantee through MSME ministry and banks will be implemented

This poll will be the most important poll of our life. This poll is not (about) getting back our symbol and the party or for Uddhav Thackeray or me. This poll is important for Maharashtra and Mumbai

We salute the unparalleled bravery of Sepoy Aibok Madur from Assam Regiment, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty November 7, 2024, in Siachen. Hailing from Mawbri village in Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya, Sepoy Madur embodied the true spirit of patriotism

PM Modi accuses Cong of breaking OBC-ST-SC unity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gumla/Bokaro (Jharkhand), Nov 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing its "shahi parivar" (royal family) of attempting to break the ST-SC-OBC unity to "snatch away reservations under an evil design" while urging the crowd at a rally in Jharkhand to stay united, saying, 'Ek rahenge toh safe rahenge' (stay united to stay safe)."



coalition wanted to divide OBCs by pitting sub-castes against each other. "Beware of Congress-JMM's evil designs and conspiracies. They can go to any extent to grab power. Congress has been an opponent of SC, ST, and OBC unity since Independence. Till there was no unity, Congress kept forming governments at the Centre and looted the nation," he said.

The PM also attacked the Congress and its allies for seeking to reinstate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir

ful of sand, they are smuggling it and earning crores. I promise to ensure stringent punishment for the corrupt leaders of the JMM-led coalition," he said. Modi claimed there was a strong wave in favour of the BJP -- "Roti, beti, maati pukar -- Jharkhand mein BJP-NDA ki sarkar".

CHANDRACHUD RETIRES AS CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Justice D Y Chandrachud Sunday concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India after two years marked by transformative rulings and substantial reforms, carving out a unique legacy in the Indian judicial history.

Beside delivering several landmark judgements like the Ayodhya land dispute, abrogation of Article 370 and the decriminalisation of consensual gay sex that shaped society and politics, he was part of 38 constitution benches during his eight years tenure as a judge in the Supreme Court.

During his tenure at the apex court, he rendered more than 500 judgements, some of them having wide ramifications to the society and legal field. India's 50th Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, known also for his many pithy statements, leaves an imprint all his own on the annals of legal history.

Not only on the judicial side but even in the administrative side, CJI Chandrachud left his imprint as he led various reforms in the judiciary. He ordered an accessibility audit of the Supreme Court to make the courts accessible to the common man and disabled friendly.

The Chandrachud legacy has a physical manifestation too - a reimagined 'Lady Justice'. The earlier 'Goddess of Justice' in Grecian robes with blindfold and sword has been replaced by a six-ft tall sculpture with scales in one hand and the Constitution in another. She is in a sari, with a crown and sans blindfold.



Baba Siddique shooter, 4 others arrested in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/Lucknow, Nov 10: In a breakthrough, Mumbai Police and Uttar Pradesh STF Sunday arrested wanted shooter Shivkumar in NCP politician Baba Siddique murder case from the northern state along with four others, an official said.

Former Maharashtra minister Siddique, 66, was shot dead October 12 by three assailants outside his son MLA Zeeshan Siddique's office building in Bandra East, Mumbai. He sustained two bullet injuries on his chest and was rushed to the Lilavati hospital in Mumbai, where he passed away.

A Mumbai crime branch official, however, said three persons including Shivkumar were arrested. The STF and the Mumbai Crime Branch today (Sunday) arrested the shooter Shivkumar and his four protectors from Nanpara in Bahraich district. Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order and STF) of UP Police Amitabh Yash told reporters in Lucknow.

Yash said that the accused Shivkumar was trying to flee to Nepal. The four others, namely Anurag Kashyap, Gyan Prakash Tripathi, Akash Srivastava and Akhilesh Pratap Singh, have been arrested for sheltering Shivkumar and helping him flee to Nepal, he added.

Mumbai Police had said that jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother Anmol, believed to be living in Canada, was allegedly behind the murder, but the motive was not clear. After confirming the whereabouts of the accused persons, a joint operation with the UP STF was conducted, involving 21 police officers and personnel of Mumbai Crime Branch, the Mumbai Police official said.



According to Mumbai Police, 18 persons had been arrested in the Siddique murder case until November 7

The arrested persons are being brought to Mumbai. Notably, accused Dharmaraj Kashyap (19) and Shiv Kumar alias Shiva Gautam (20) are residents of Gandara village in Kaiserganj police station area of Bahraich district, a senior UP police officer had said after Siddique was shot dead.

Kaiserganj Circle Officer (CO) Anil Kumar Singh had told PTI that Shivkumar alias Shiva had gone to Maharashtra to work as a labourer a few years ago and in April this year, he had called his neighbour Dharmaraj Kashyap to work with him.

Shiva's father Balkrishna works as a mason as a daily wage. Meanwhile, arrested accused Shiv Kumar during his interrogation told police that he and Dharmaraj Kashyap are from the same village.

"I used to work in a scrap (shop) in Pune. My scrap shop and Shubham Lonkar's (shop) were next to each other," Shiv Kumar had told the police, the UP STF said in a statement Sunday.

POST OF THE DAY

India is the only country in the World which has Tax Minister, Reel Minister & Toll Minister? Who all agree?

SHORT TAKES

Tamil writer Indira Soundararajan dies

Madurai: Popular Tamil novelist Indira Soundararajan, who wrote the story, screenplay, and dialogues for the epic Tamil thriller television serial 'Marmadesam', passed away Sunday at his residence here, sources close to the family said. He was 65 years old. Soundararajan is survived by his wife and two daughters. He was renowned for creating supernatural and mystical themes, as reflected in works such as 'Marmadesam', 'Iraiyuthir Kaadu', 'Naney Varuven,' and 'Thangakkadu'.

CPI(M) FB page hacked

Pathanamthitta (Kerala): With crucial bypolls in Kerala, the ruling CPI(M) faced embarrassment Sunday after its official Facebook page briefly featured a campaign video of Opposition UDF candidate Rahul Mamkootathil, running for the Palakkad Assembly constituency. Initially, the district leadership claimed it was not the official page of the party, but later clarified that the page had been "hacked" to post the video and incite controversy. CPI(M) Pathanamthitta district secretary KP Udayabhanu issued a statement saying the party came to know about the video posted following media reports.

Eight cars gutted

Hyderabad: A container lorry with eight cars being transported on it caught fire in Sangareddy district in Telangana Sunday and the driver suffered burns, police said. The incident happened on the national highway at Zahirabad town between 1.30 pm and 2 pm. Three fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the flames were brought under control, police said, adding the lorry driver who suffered 20 per cent burns was rushed to a hospital.

J&K: Army JCO killed in anti-terror operation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 10: A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army's special forces laid down his life Sunday, while three more soldiers were injured in a gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

The operation comes amid an intensified hunt underway since the killing of two Village Defence Guards (VDGs) recently.

The Army identified the fallen hero as Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of 2 Para and saluted his supreme sacrifice. The encounter broke out around

The operation comes amid an intensified hunt underway since the killing of two Village Defence Guards (VDGs) recently

The Army identified the fallen hero as Naib Subedar Rakesh Kumar of 2 Para and saluted his supreme sacrifice

11 am when joint search parties of the Army and police intercepted the terrorists in the Keshwan forest, a few kilometres from the spot where the bullet-riddled bodies of VDGs Nazir Ahmad and Kuldeep Kumar were found.

A massive search operation was launched in the forests of Kuntwara and Keshwan Thursday evening after the terrorists abducted and killed the VDGs. The Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X, "Based on specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists, a joint operation was launched by security forces in general area Bhart Ridge, Kishtwar."

Elephant toll at Bandhavgarh reaches 11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Umariya (MP), Nov 10: An elephant calf that got separated from the herd and was rescued died at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh's Umariya district Sunday morning, an official said.

With this, 11 tuskers have died in BTR since last month. The calf was found ill and abandoned by its herd in the buffer zone of the BTR Friday, the official said.

The reserve has witnessed the deaths of 10 elephants in the last three days of October. BTR deputy director Prakash Kumar Verma Sunday said the elephant calf was found unconscious three days ago in the Panpatha buffer range.

The forest authorities rescued the calf, aged around three months, and it was being treated at Rama Elephant Camp, where it died around 6 am Sunday, he said in a statement.



Women take part in 'Saree Run' at Jayanagar, in Bangalore, Karnataka

MVA promises period leaves, cervical cancer vaccine

The manifesto, titled 'Maharashtranaam', assured a caste-based census, and monthly financial assistance of ₹3,000, free bus travel and six cooking gas cylinders every year at ₹500 each to women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 10: The Opposition MVA Sunday released its manifesto for the November 20 Maharashtra polls, promising free cervical cancer vac-

cines for girls aged 9 to 16 and two optional leave days for women employees during menstruation.

The manifesto, titled 'Maharashtranaam', assured a caste-based census, and monthly financial assistance of ₹3,000, free bus travel and six cooking gas cylinders every year at ₹500 each to women.

It also promised to frame a 'Nirbhay Maharashtra' policy and enforcement of the Shakti law for the safety of women and children, besides a dedicated ministry for child welfare. The MVA also assured to provide ₹1 lakh each to girls on attaining the age of 18 years.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge released the manifesto of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for the state elections at



a press conference in Mumbai where NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut were also present. Spelling out its theme, he said MVA's vision for Maharashtra's progress is based on five pillars - agriculture and rural development, industry and employment, urban

development, environment and public welfare.

If voted to power, women in Maharashtra will receive ₹3,000 per month under the Mahalaxmi scheme and will be entitled to free bus travel, he said. The state's 'Ladki Bahin' programme currently provides eligible women monthly aid of ₹1,500.

Kharge the MVA government will carry out a caste census and remove the 50 per cent ceiling on reservation as has been done in Tamil Nadu. Replying to questions on populist schemes announced by the MVA after criticising the ruling Mahayuti for the same, Kharge said, "Give us government and we will give you the budget."

MVA's victory over the BJP-led Mahayuti is important for the progress and development of the state, he said.

The Congress president said that in Karnataka, ₹52,000 crore has been budgeted for the implementation of guarantees and the budget and expenditure details are available.

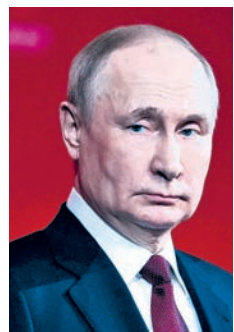
Sule and state Congress president Nana Patole said enough

funds will be available if the cost escalation in infrastructure projects and corruption are checked. Kharge denied that some populist schemes, similar to the Mahayuti government's Ladki Bahin Yojana, are meant to influence voters.

Every family will get a health insurance cover of ₹25 lakh along the lines of a scheme started by the earlier Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan, Kharge said.

The manifesto promises free cervical cancer vaccines for all girls aged 9 to 16 and two optional leave days for female employees during menstruation. It also promises to formulate an inclusive policy to ensure opportunities for differently-abled and LGBTQIA+ individuals across all sectors.

international



More work and proactive behaviour are necessary in suppressing extremism. It threatens our sovereignty, constitutional order and the safety of people in any form and guise

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

KATE'S SECOND PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Britain's Princess Kate attended the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in London, her second public appearance in two days, as she gradually returns to public duties after her treatment for cancer



of the day quote

In defence, based on our robust South Korea-US alliance, we must maintain a strong deterrent against North Korea and be prepared to lead in promoting genuine peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region



YOON SUK YEOL | PRESIDENT, SOUTH KOREA

It is essential that we make substantive progress in the implementation of the joint statement agreed with Iran in March 2023 (to allow International Atomic Energy Agency to implement further appropriate verification and monitoring activities). My visit to Tehran will be very important in that regard



MARIANO GROSSI | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

We must give an example that in this modern age, collaboration, not confrontation, is the way for peace and prosperity



PRABOWO SUBIANTO | PRESIDENT, INDONESIA

DRONES SWARM MOSCOW

In its biggest drone strike on the Russian capital city since the beginning of war in 2022, Ukraine has attacked Moscow with at least 34 drones

REUTERS

Moscow, Nov 10: Ukraine attacked Moscow Sunday with at least 34 drones, the biggest drone strike on the Russian capital since the start of the war in 2022, forcing flights to be diverted from three of the city's major airports and injuring at least one person.

Russian air defences destroyed another 36 drones over other regions of Western Russia in three hours Sunday, the defence ministry said.

"An attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out a terrorist attack using an airplane-type drones on the territory of the Russian Federation was thwarted," the ministry said.

Russia's federal air transport agency said the airports of Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo and Zhukovsky diverted at least 36 flights, but then resumed operations. One person was reported injured in Moscow region.

Moscow and its surrounding region, with a population of at least 21 million people, is one of the biggest metropolitan areas in Europe, alongside Istanbul.



For its part, Russia launched a record 145 drones overnight, Ukraine said. Kyiv said its air defences downed 62 of those. Ukraine also said it attacked an arsenal in the Bryansk region of Russia, which reported 14 drones had been downed in the region.

Unverified video posted on Russian Telegram channels showed drones buzzing across the skyline.

The 2-1/2-year-old war in Ukraine is entering what some officials say could be its final act after Moscow's forces advanced at the fastest pace since the early days of the war and

Donald Trump was elected 47th President of the United States. Trump, who takes office in January, said during campaigning that he could bring peace in Ukraine within 24 hours, but has given few details on how he would seek to do this.

When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Trump to congratulate him on his presidential election victory, Tesla CEO and Trump supporter Elon Musk joined the call, according to media reports. Musk owns SpaceX, which provides Starlink satellite communication services

- Three Moscow airports divert flights
- Biggest drone strike on the capital to date
- Ukraine says it targeted an arsenal in Russia

that are vital for Ukraine's defence effort.

MOSCOW 'UMBRELLAS'

Kyiv, itself the target of repeated mass drone strikes from Russian forces, has tried to strike back against its vastly larger eastern neighbour with repeated drone strikes against oil refineries, airfields and even the Russian strategic early-warning radar stations.

While the 1,000 km front has largely resembled grinding World War One trench and artillery warfare for much of the war, one of the biggest innovations of the conflict has been drone warfare.

Moscow and Kyiv have both sought to buy and develop new drones, deploy them in innovative ways, and seek new ways to destroy them, from using farmers' shotguns to advanced

electronic jamming systems.

Moscow has developed a series of electronic "umbrellas" over Moscow, with additional advanced internal layers over strategic buildings, and a complex web of air defences which shoot down the drones before they reach the Kremlin at the heart of the Russian capital.

Both sides have turned cheap commercial drones into deadly weapons while ramping up their own production. Soldiers on both sides have reported the visceral fear of drones and both sides have used macabre video footage of fatal drone strikes in their propaganda.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has sought to insulate Moscow from the grinding rigours of the war, has called Ukrainian drone attacks that target civilian infrastructure such as nuclear power plants "terrorism" and has vowed a response.

Moscow, by far Russia's richest city, has boomed during the war, buoyed by the biggest defence spending splurge since the Cold War.

LAHORE SMOG CRISIS

Maryam slammed over Europe trip

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lahore, Nov 10: Maryam Nawaz, Chief Minister of Pakistan's Punjab province, is being severely criticised by the Opposition for embarking on a Europe trip even as several cities, including Lahore, Multan and surrounding areas, battle massive smog crisis, becoming the most polluted region in the world. Maryam Nawaz travelled to Switzerland Wednesday night, where she was joined by other family members, including her father and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who arrived from London.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the Punjab CM is in Geneva to undergo a medical checkup for a thyroid gland. She is later expected to visit London with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief before returning home sometime next week.

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor Ali Saif Sunday alleged that Maryam Nawaz had hired a private jet for the journey and the father-daughter duo are enjoying the fresh air of Geneva even as the people of Punjab are struggling to breathe.

SHORT TAKES

BRICS application not rejected: SL

Colombo: Sri Lanka's bid to join BRICS has not ended and its application to join the grouping is still pending, the Foreign Ministry here said Sunday. It said that Sri Lanka had applied for membership and the foreign minister Vijitha Herath had written to his counterparts expressing Sri Lanka's interest to join BRICS. "Pending requests for membership from many countries, including Sri Lanka, will be considered by BRICS member countries in due course," the statement added. The statement came after local media reports said Sri Lanka's application to become a member in the BRICS has been rejected. Meanwhile, the statement also said Sri Lanka's intention to join the New Development Bank (NDB) was welcomed by the President of the NDB. The New Development Bank is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states.

China rejects new Philippine law

Beijing: China rejected Philippine maritime claims Sunday, saying new legislation "severely infringes on" Beijing's territorial sovereignty and rights in the South China Sea, and vowing to protect its own interests. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr signed two laws Friday to define the country's maritime entitlements and set designated sea lanes and air routes to reinforce sovereignty. "China firmly opposes this and will continue to take all necessary measures in accordance with the law to resolutely defend China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," the foreign ministry said.

Gunmen in Mexico kill ten, injure seven

Mexico City: Gunmen attacked a bar in central Mexican city of Queretaro killing 10 people Saturday, a local security official said. The attackers opened fire inside the Los Cantaritos bar in the city's historic district, according to the head of Queretaro's public security department Juan Luis Ferrusca. "Emergency services arrived at the scene and confirmed that at least four people armed with long weapons had arrived on board a pickup truck," he said in a video posted on social media. One suspect was detained and the vehicle used in the attack was found abandoned and set on fire, Ferrusca said.

Bangladesh seeks Interpol support



Bangladesh's interim government announced Sunday that it will request Interpol's help to extradite former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India and other alleged fugitives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

people were killed and thousands injured during the protests, which it termed crimes against humanity and genocide. Over 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Hasina and her party leaders with the ICT and the prosecution team till mid-October.

"A Red Notice will be issued through Interpol very soon. No matter where in the world these fugitive fascists are hiding, they will be brought back and held accountable in court," Law Affairs adviser Asif Nazrul told reporters here after inspecting the status of renovation at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), which is housed in the Old High Court building on the Supreme Court premises.

Officials said a Red Notice is not an international arrest warrant, but rather a global request for law enforcement agencies to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action. Interpol member countries enforce Red Notices according to their own national laws.

The ICT was originally formed by the Hasina-led Awami League government in March 2010 to try the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War. It later formed ICT-2, and at least six Jamaat-e-Islami and leaders of Hasina's arch rival Khaleda Zia's BNP party were executed following the judgments of the two tribunals. The tribunal remained dormant since mid-June after its chairman retired.



Performers take part in the Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London

PT PHOTO

In a first, Taliban to attend COP29 summit

Kabul: Afghan Taliban officials will attend a major United Nations climate conference that starts next week, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said Sunday, the first time they have attended since the former insurgents took power in 2021. The COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan's capital Baku will be among the highest-profile multilateral events attended by Taliban administration officials since they took control in Kabul after 20 years of fighting NATO-backed forces. The UN has not allowed the Taliban to take up Afghanistan's seat at the General Assembly, and Afghanistan's government is not formally recognised by UN member states, largely due to the Taliban's restrictions on women's education and freedom of movement. Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi said officials from the National Environmental Protection Agency had arrived in Azerbaijan to attend the COP conference.

Canada detects its 1st human H5 bird flu case

Ottawa: Canada has detected its first presumptive case of H5 bird flu in a person, a teenager in the western province of British Columbia, health officials said Saturday. The teenager likely caught the virus from a bird or animal and was receiving care at a children's hospital, the province said. The province said it was investigating the source of exposure and identifying the teenager's contacts. The risk to the public remains low. Canada's Health Minister Mark Holland said in posting on X. "This is a rare event," British Columbia Health Officer Bonnie Henry said in a statement. "We are conducting a thorough investigation to fully understand the source of exposure here." H5 bird flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in poultry and US dairy cows, with several recent human cases in US dairy and poultry workers. There has been no evidence of person-to-person spread so far. But if that were to happen, a pandemic could unfold, scientists have said.

Canadian police nab Khalistani activist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ottawa, Nov 10: Canadian police have arrested a 35-year-old Brampton resident on charges of assault with a weapon during a violent demonstration at a Hindu temple in the city, authorities said.

On November 3, a protest occurred at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton and unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan. The videos showed fist fights and people striking each other with poles on what appears to be the grounds surrounding the temple.

The Peel Regional Police responded to the altercation during the demonstration at the Mandir. As tensions between opposing sides increased, the demonstrations became physical and assaultive, a statement said Saturday.

Police began investigating several offences that occurred during the demonstration, many of which were captured on video; including individuals using flags and sticks to assault people, it said.

Investigators from the 21 Division Criminal Investigations Bureau and Strategic Investigation Team (SIT) have arrested and charged Inderjeet Gosal of Brampton, the Peel Police statement said. Gosal is Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) coordinator for Canada, Toronto Star reported.

Trump on Day 1: Mass deportation, purge govt, pardon self

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 10: Donald Trump has said he wouldn't be a dictator, "except for Day 1." According to his own statements, he's got a lot to do on that first day in the White House.

His list includes starting up the mass deportation of migrants, rolling back Biden administration policies on education, reshaping the federal government by firing potentially thousands of federal employees he believes are secretly working against him, and pardoning people who were arrested for their role in the riot at the Capitol January 6, 2021.

His criminal cases Trump has said that "within two seconds" of taking office that he would fire Jack Smith,



the special counsel who has been prosecuting two federal cases against him.

Smith charged Trump last year with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Trump cannot pardon himself when it comes to his state conviction in New York in a hush money case, but he could seek to leverage his status as

President-elect in an effort to set aside or expunge his felony conviction and stave off a potential prison sentence.

January 6 Capitol riot More than 1,500 people have been charged since a mob of Trump supporters spun up by the outgoing President attacked the Capitol almost nearly four years ago.

As president, Trump can pardon anyone convicted in federal court, District of Columbia

Superior Court or in a military court-martial. He can stop the continued prosecution of rioters by telling his attorney general to stand down.

"I am inclined to pardon many of them," Trump said on his social media platform in March when announcing the promise. "I can't say for every single one, because a couple of them, probably they got out of control."

Drill, drill, drill Trump is looking to reverse climate policies aimed at reducing planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

With an executive order on Day 1, he can roll back environmental protections, halt wind projects, scuttle the Biden administration's targets that encourage the switch to electric cars and abolish standards for

companies to become more environmentally friendly.

He has pledged to increase production of US fossil fuels, promising to "drill, drill, drill", when he gets into office Day 1 and seeking to open the Arctic wilderness to oil drilling, which he claims would lower energy costs.

Government workers Trump could begin the process of stripping tens of thousands of career employees of their civil service protections, so they could be more easily fired.

He wants to do two things: drastically reduce the federal workforce, which he has long said is an unnecessary drain, and to "totally obliterate the deep state", perceived enemies who, he believes, are hiding in government jobs.

Business



target of \$31 billion for 2024-25 will be achieved, as there is a healthy demand for 'made in India' chemicals in countries like Brazil, the US, Japan and Saudi Arabia

BIZ AS USUAL FOR SBI IN CANADA

State Bank of India (SBI) has not seen any impact in Canada despite the ongoing tensions between New Delhi and Ottawa, a top bank official has said. The Indian government-run lender, which has been present in Canada since 1982, is considered as a "local bank" by all stakeholders in the North American country, its chairman CS Setty said



of the day quote

India is now becoming a very good opportunity market for gaming for Sony... We have 95 per cent in the market today as far as PS5 is concerned. We have a very strong brand here for the gaming business

India is set to release CPI and IIP data on November 12, with WPI data expected on November 14. Globally, the US inflation report on November 13 will be critical, as it may influence the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy stance

We are almost reaching the threshold of asset size and loan book that we should have, and we may not really look at the quantum jump in asset size or loan book size. We may have a separate vertical to securitise our own assets

SKY-HIGH TRAGEDY

Aviation going belly-up

IN OVER 17 YEARS, 5 INDIAN FULL SERVICE CARRIERS BID ADIEU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 10: When Vistara folds up into the Air India Group Monday, the number of full service carriers in the fast-growing Indian aviation space will come down to just one from five in a span of over 17 years.

Also, the merger -- that will see Vistara's 49 per cent owner Singapore Airlines holding 25.1 per cent stake in Air India post the merger-- will mark the sunset of another Indian airline jointly owned by an overseas carrier after the liberalisation of foreign direct investment norms.

In 2012, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh-led UPA government allowed foreign airlines to buy up to 49 per cent in a domestic carrier, which later resulted in the now defunct Jet Airways securing 24 per cent stake from Gulf carrier Etihad besides the birth of AirAsia India and Vistara.

Vistara is also the only full-service carrier to start operations in the last 10 years.

Since the merger of full-service carrier (FSC) Indian Airlines with Air India in 2007, at least five FSCs dotted the Indian skies.

As years passed by, Kingfisher and Air Sahara faded away while Vistara took flight in January 2015. Kingfisher went belly up in 2012 while Air Sahara, which was acquired by Jet Airways and renamed as JetLite, sank with Jet Airways in 2019.



Singapore Airlines boosts stake in AI

Singapore Airlines will make an additional investment of ₹3,194.5 crore in Tata Group-owned Air India post-merger of Vistara in November 29, 2022, and set to be completed November 11, 2024, will result in Singapore Airlines having a 25.1 per cent stake in the enlarged Air India. Full-service carrier Vistara, which started flying January 9, 2015, is a joint venture between Tata and Singapore Airlines, where the latter holds a 49 per cent shareholding. Singapore Airlines (SIA) Group on Friday said its consideration for the merger comprises the 49 per cent interest in Vistara and ₹20,585 million (Rs 2,058.5 crore) in cash in exchange for a 25.1 per cent equity interest in the enlarged Air India.

Beleaguered SpiceJet to launch seaplane ops

Vijayawada: Beleaguered low-cost airline SpiceJet Saturday announced that it would launch seaplane operations in India next year, with an aim to connect some of the most remote and picturesque locations. With rights to operate seaplane services on 20 routes, including Lakshadweep, Hyderabad, Guwahati, and Shillong, the airline said it is preparing to roll out connectivity across key routes as the infrastructure becomes ready. The budget carrier has recently announced to expand its domestic network with the launch of eight new flights starting November 15. These new routes will connect Jaipur with Varanasi, Amritsar, and Ahmedabad, while also linking Ahmedabad with Pune. Meanwhile, the domestic passenger market share of SpiceJet, facing financial difficulties for several quarters, shrunk to 2.3 per cent in August this year, as per recent data by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). In January last year, the airline held a 7.3 per cent market share. The airline reported a 19.65 per cent drop in consolidated profit in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY25). Its profit stood at ₹158.75 crore in Q1 against ₹197.58 crore in the year-ago fiscal period.

Tatas -- followed by Vistara -- where Singapore Airlines holds 49 per cent stake and 51 per cent is with Tata Group. With rising air traffic and changing travel patterns, many no-frills airlines are dominating the skies worldwide and India's dominant carrier is IndiGo.

From November 12, the enlarged Air India will remain the country's lone full-service player. Coming to Indian carriers with foreign ownership, the first was Jet Airways where Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways snapped up 24 per cent stake. Then came AirAsia India -- 49 per cent owned by Malaysia's AirAsia and the rest was with FSC Jet Airways that flew for 25 years before getting grounded in April 2019 due to financial turbulence is set to be liquidated.

Among others, FSCs strive to provide more comfort to passengers during travel and the services, including meals, are included in the ticket price. Also, they mostly operate different types of aircraft and broadly, these airlines focus more on overall network profitability. In the case of low-cost carriers route-specific profitability, ancillary revenues and mostly single type of planes are among the key elements that help in ensuring cost-effective operations.

NET SELLERS

FPIs SHOWING NO OPTIMISM



Foreign investors withdraw nearly ₹20,000cr from equities in last 5 trading sessions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The exodus of foreign investments from Indian equity markets continued unabated, with FPIs pulling out nearly ₹20,000 crore in the last five trading sessions on higher valuations of domestic stocks and shifting their allocation to China.

As a result, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have turned net sellers in the equity market, with total outflows reaching ₹13,401 crore for 2024 so far.

According to the data, FPIs recorded a net outflow of ₹19,994 crore so far this month, comprising five trading sessions from November 4-8. This came following a net withdrawal of ₹94,017 crore in October, the worst monthly outflow. Before this, FPIs withdrew ₹61,973 crore from equities in March 2020.

One of the primary reasons for FPIs exiting Indian equities is their newfound affinity towards China, given its attractive valuation and potential for generating higher growth. China has recently introduced a series of stimulus measures to revitalise its slowing economy and attract foreign investments

HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MANAGER RESEARCH, MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT RESEARCH

In September 2024, foreign investors made a nine-month high investment of ₹57,724 crore.

Since June, FPIs have consistently bought equities after withdrawing ₹34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, May and October, data with the depositories showed.

While the immediate uncertainty over the US Presidential election and interest rates in the US has been addressed, several drivers of the foreign flows into the Indian equity markets continue to remain unfavourable.

On the other hand, FPIs invested ₹599 crore in the debt general limit and ₹2,896 crore in the debt voluntary retention route (VRR) during the period under review.

So far this year, FPIs invested ₹1.06 lakh crore in the debt market.

EXODUS CONTINUES UNABATED

FPIs outflows reach ₹13,401cr so far this year

Oct saw withdrawal of ₹94,017cr, worst monthly outflow

SHORT TAKES

EPFO members surge

New Delhi: The number of contributing members to the EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) has risen by 7.6 per cent to 7.37 crore in 2023-24 from 6.85 crore in 2022-2023 while the number of establishments making contributions to the organisation has risen by 6.6 per cent to 7.66 lakh during this period, according to a statement issued by the Labour Ministry Sunday. This reflects both the increase in employment and business establishments in the organised sector of the Indian economy, which offers a better standard of living to workers.

Coal import rises 8%

New Delhi: India's coal import rose by 7.8 per cent to 140.60 million tonne (MT) in the April-September period of the ongoing financial year. The country's coal import was 130.34 MT in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction services ltd. Overall, coal import demand is likely to remain modest due to the healthy stock position and high volumes being offered through spot e-auctions in the domestic market, mjunction MD and CEO Vinaya Varma said.

BIZ BUZZ

Scrap sale fetches ₹650cr for govt

New Delhi: The Union Government has earned over ₹650 crore from the disposal of scrap during the cleanliness campaign carried out in October, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Personnel. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions, the special campaigns conducted by the government from 2021-24 have generated a revenue of ₹2,364 crore through scrap disposal and resulted in freeing up more office space for officials to function more effectively, the statement said. Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said that the special campaign 4.0 was India's largest campaign for institutionalising Swachhata and reducing pendency in the government offices and has witnessed many best practices and milestones. The saturation approach was adopted in special campaign 4.0 for Swachhata and reduced pendency.

Govt raises ₹3,449cr from HZL OFS

New Delhi: The government has raised ₹3,449 crore through offer-for-sale (OFS) in Hindustan Zinc Ltd by selling about 1.6 per cent stake. Through the two-day OFS on November 6-7, the government had proposed to sell over 5.28 crore shares, or 1.25 per cent stake, with a greenshoe option to retain additional subscriptions of a similar amount. As per the official data, the government has raised ₹3,449.18 crore from the OFS. On the first day of the share sale offer on November 6, the institutional investors had placed bids for close to ₹3,400 crore shares or about 1.58 per cent stake. The government, which held a 29.54 per cent stake in HZL before the OFS, is the largest minority shareholder in the Vedanta Group firm. In the current fiscal so far, ₹8,625 crore has been mopped up through minority stake sales by the government. This includes ₹2,346 crore raised through OFS of GIC and ₹2,015 crore from Cochin Shipyard. Another ₹815 crore was mobilised by way of remittances from SUUTI.

Smartphones to get dearer in 2025

Global average selling price of smartphones is projected to rise by 3% YoY to \$365 in 2024, with a further 5% surge in coming year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 10: Smartphones are getting costlier and going forward, be ready to pay more with the rising prices of generative AI chips, transition to 5G, enhanced computing capabilities and premiumisation. The global average selling price (ASP) of smartphones is projected to rise by 3 per cent (year-on-year) to \$365 in 2024, with a further 5 per cent increase in 2025, according to Counterpoint Research's Market Outlook report.

In 2025, increasing consumer interest in generative AI (GenAI) will mainly support the premiumisation trend as GenAI

GenAI ERA



demands SoCs with significant enhancements in CPU, NPU and GPU capabilities. Furthermore, in mature smartphone markets, which have longer replacement cycles, manufacturers are adopting advanced technologies like GenAI to boost upgrades in the premium segment, the report mentioned.

In the first half of 2024, sales of smartphones priced at \$1,000 and above surged by 18 per cent. As consumers seek devices with advanced features and capabilities, major smartphone OEMs are responding by integrating GenAI technologies into their models, marking the dawn of

the AI smartphone era.

The ASP rise is closely linked to the increasing bill of materials (BoM) costs. A primary contributor to this escalation is the SoC (system-on-chip).

As manufacturers adopt more advanced process nodes, such as 4nm and 3nm, the costs associated with wafer manufacturing are expected to rise starting in 2025.

This increase will impact the pricing of select Qualcomm and MediaTek products that incorporate GenAI, leading to single-digit percentage increases, the report mentioned.

The latest SoC offerings from companies like Qualcomm and MediaTek are not only more expensive but also significantly more powerful. Enhanced AI capabilities, particularly within NPUs, allow these chips to perform complex tasks more efficiently. While the rising prices of SoCs contribute to the overall increase in smartphone costs, memory prices are also a crucial factor.

RELIANCE TAKES A HIT

Mcap of 6 of top-10 most-valued firms erodes ₹1.55L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most-valued firms eroded ₹1,55,721.12 crore last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest laggard, in line with an overall weak trend in equities.



Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 237.8 points, or 0.29 per cent. While Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, TCS, Hindustan Unilever and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) suffered erosion in their market valuation, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and the State Bank of India were the gainers.

The valuation of Reliance Industries fell ₹74,563.37 crore to ₹17,37,556.68 crore. Bharti Airtel's valuation dropped ₹26,274.75 crore to ₹8,94,024.60 crore.

The market valuation of ICICI Bank slumped ₹22,254.79 crore to ₹8,88,432.06 crore and that of ITC tanked ₹15,449.47 crore to ₹5,98,213.49 crore.

LIC's market capitalisation (mcap) declined ₹9,930.25 crore to ₹5,78,579.16 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever went lower ₹7,248.49 crore to ₹5,89,160.01 crore. However, the valuation of TCS jumped ₹57,744.68 crore to ₹14,99,697.28 crore. The mcap of Infosys soared ₹28,838.95 crore to ₹7,60,281.13 crore and that of State Bank of India climbed ₹19,812.65 crore to ₹7,52,568.58 crore.

HDFC Bank added ₹14,678.09 crore, taking its valuation to ₹13,40,754.74 crore. Reliance Industries remained the country's most-valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, and LIC.

RUSSIAN OIL FINDS ITS WAY TO EUROPE VIA INDIA

India now biggest exporter of fuel to EU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: India's export of fuels like diesel to the European Union jumped 58 per cent in the first three quarters of 2024, with a bulk of them likely coming from refining discounted Russian oil, according to a monthly tracker report.

The EU/G7 countries in December 2022 introduced a price cap and an embargo on the imports of Russian crude oil in a bid to cripple Kremlin's revenue and create a vacuum in its funding for the invasion of Ukraine.

However, a lack of a policy on refined oil produced from Russian crude meant that countries not imposing sanctions could import large volumes of Russian crude, refine them into oil products and legally export



them to the price-cap coalition countries.

India has become the second biggest buyer of Russian crude oil since the invasion, with purchases rising from less than one per cent of the total oil imported in the pre-Ukraine war period to almost 40 per cent of the country's total oil purchases.

The rise was primarily because Russian crude oil was available at a discount to other internationally traded oil due to the price cap and the Europe-

an nations shunning purchases from Moscow. Fuel exports were, however, at full price.

"Capitalising on the refining loophole, India has now become the biggest exporter of oil products to the EU. In the first three quarters of 2024, exports to the EU from the Jamnagar, Vadinar (in Gujarat) and new Mangalore refinery - which are increasingly reliant on Russian crude - saw a 58 per cent year-on-year rise further," the Centre for Research on Energy

India has become the second biggest buyer of Russian crude oil since the invasion, with purchases rising from less than one per cent of the total oil imported in the pre-Ukraine war period to almost 40% of the country's total oil purchases

and Clean Air (CREA) said its latest report.

Reliance Industries Ltd has oil refineries at Jamnagar while Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy has a unit at Vadinar. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) is a subsidiary of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corpora-

tion (ONGC).

This, it said, amplified "the fact that EU Member States continued imports are expanding the refining loophole and Russian revenues from crude exports to third countries".

Europe typically imported an average of 1,54,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel and jet fuel from India before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This has almost doubled.

While CREA did not give an absolute number for imports, the European think tank had in a previous report stated that Euro 8.5 billion of price cap coalition countries' imports of oil products in 13 months to December 2023 were made from Russian crude.

These imports in 13 months were equivalent to 68 per cent of the EU's annual commitment to aid Ukraine between 2024 and 2027.

"In the 13 months since the oil price cap took effect (in De-

cember 2022), over one-third of India's exports of oil products to sanctioning countries was derived from Russian crude (EUR 6.16 billion or \$6.65 billion)," the Finland-based CREA had said in the previous report.

While there are no restrictions or sanctions on buying/using Russian crude oil and exporting fuels like diesel derived from it, the Group of Seven (G7) rich nations, the European Union and Australia - called the price cap coalition countries - first set a crude price cap of \$60 per barrel starting December 5, 2022, and later on products like diesel to keep the market supplied while limiting Moscow's revenue.

CREA in the latest report said India, the world's third largest oil-consuming and importing nation, in October bought Euro 2 billion worth of crude oil from Russia, down from Euro 2.4 billion in the previous month.

Stubbs shrouds Varun's fifer

SA register three-wicket win in second T20I against India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gqeberha, Nov 10: Spinner Varun Chakravarthy's magical craftiness en route a maiden fifer remained a mere footnote as South Africa rode on the stubbornness of Tristan Stubbs to eke out a three-wicket win over India in a low-scoring second T20I here Sunday. The four-match series is now level at 1-1. But SA's victory, which also halted India's 11-match winning streak, did not come without its share of drama.

The first hint of a topsy-turvy night came when India limped to 124 for six on a quick, bouncy pitch after getting the invitation to bat first. The Proteas were at one stage 66 for six and 86 for seven, which eventually transpired into 128 for seven, as Chakravarthy continued his international resurgence with a five-wicket haul (5/17). But SA found two valiant soldiers in determined Stubbs (47 not out, 41b, 7x4) and aggressive Gerald Coetzee (19 not out, 9b, 2x4, 1x6) who added a precious

42 runs for the eighth wicket alliance to carry their side past the tape. However, Chakravarthy deserves credit for making the match a thrilling affair. The Tamil Nadu man came to the party after pacer Arshdeep Singh dismissed opener Riyan Rickelton in the third over. Chakravarthy started his dismantling job going through the defences of SA skipper Aiden Markram, who failed to read a wrong'un. Reeza Hendricks (24, 21b, 3x4, 1x6) looked comfortable

SA's victory halted India's 11-match winning streak. The four-match series is now level at 1-1

until he failed to pick Chakravarthy's googly that rearranged his woodwork. But the home side did not look in any great danger even at 34 for two after the Power Play, but Chakravarthy's twin blow in the 13th over pegged the Proteas back. Heinrich Klaasen, a capable player of spin, chose to go aerial route only to find Rinku Singh in the deep. David Miller's tentative prod off the first ball he faced met with thin air as the straight



one from the Indian spinner, which quickened after pitched, crashed onto his off-stump. But Stubbs and Coetzee, who put pacers Arshdeep and Avesh Khan through the wringer, had enough steam in them to give their side a win, as India strangely used left-spinner Axar Patel for only one over on a pitch where tweakers took six wickets. Earlier, Indian batters too were all at sea on a springy St George's Park deck against disciplined South African bowlers. The Proteas bowlers hit the back of length line and the natural bounce on the pitch did the rest. Abhishek Sharma's dismissal was an example for this. The left-hander's underwhelming outings in T20Is continued as his miscued pull off a climbing delivery from Coetzee ended in the hands of Marco Jansen, who made the first strike dismissing Sanju Samson. Samson, who had become the first Indian batsman to score back-to-back T20I hundreds, gave himself space to carve Jansen over mid-off, but the opener paid a heavy price for needless pre-meditation to get bowled. Jansen started off with a wicket maiden and the rest of the SA bowlers hardly offered any freebies for Indian batters to shake off the pressure. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who shuffled across a tad too much, missed a fuller delivery from Andile Simelane to get trapped in front of the stumps, and it was the pacer's maiden international wicket.

FIRST TIME IN 22 YEARS

Pak's rare feat with ODI series win vs Oz



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Perth, Nov 10: Saim Ayub hit 42 and Abdullah Shafique 37 as Pakistan raced to a commanding eight-wicket victory and their first one-day series win in Australia for 22 years Sunday. After bowling out the woeful world champions for a miserly 140 at Perth Stadium, Mohammad Rizwan's team reached their target in the 27th over. The impressive performance, aided by high-quality bowling from Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf, ensured a first ODI series win in Australia since 2002. They lost a tense opening match in Melbourne by two wickets, but bounced back with an emphatic nine-wicket victory in Adelaide. "It's a special moment for me and the fans," said captain Rizwan. "I'll give all the credit to the bowlers. Australia in Australia is not easy." "But Saim and Abdullah have given us a

couple of great starts, too," he added. "The fans love us regardless of whether we win or lose and I really appreciate that." The hosts rested Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc in Perth ahead of the Test series starting this month against India, and they were missed. Shafique and Ayub began aggressively and rode their luck, with little spark from the bowlers. Ayub, who smashed 82 in Adelaide, survived two dropped catches, by Lance Morris and Spencer Johnson, as he swung the bat. Shafique was also put down on 28, by Adam Zampa, as they reached the halfway point in the chase without loss in the 14th over. Australia finally got a reward when Morris caught and bowled Shafique and then bowled Ayub five balls later. But Rizwan (30) and Babar Azam (28) kept calm to steer them home.

SHORT TAKES

HS Sodhi no more

New Delhi: Leading former Indian polo player and Arjuna Awardee Harinder Singh Sodhi, who during his peak achieved a handicap of plus-five, has died due to age-related illnesses. He was 86 and is survived by his wife and two daughters. Popular in polo circles as 'Billy' Sodhi, he died here late Saturday. Sodhi played polo alongside the likes of Hanut Singh, Sawai Man Singh (Maharaja of Jaipur) and later with his son Bhawani Singh. His younger brother, renowned polo player Ravinder Singh Sodhi, is also an Arjuna Award recipient. Harinder was the manager of the Indian equestrian team during the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Upset for Inter Miami

Fort Lauderdale: There will be no MLS Cup for Lionel Messi and Inter Miami this year. Atlanta United saw to that with a massive upset, sending the game's most decorated player and biggest-spending team home earlier than anyone imagined. Jamal Thiare scored twice, Bartosz Slisz's header in the 76th minute was the winner, and Atlanta United stunned Inter Miami 3-2 Saturday night to win their best-of-three first round MLS Cup playoff series in three games. Two free kicks by Messi in the final minutes hit the wall of Atlanta defenders, and time eventually ran out. Messi's header — yes, header — in the 65th minute tied the match at 2-2, but the hosts never reclaimed the lead and Brad Guzan stopped almost everything that came his way in the Atlanta net seal the upset.

Man City's dark times

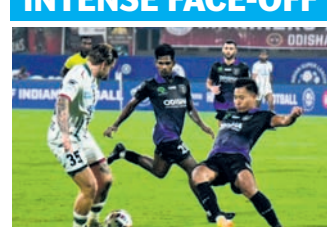
Manchester: Manchester City has never had it this bad under Pep Guardiola. Guardiola has never had it this bad in his managerial career. A sense of crisis is looming over the champions of England after they lost a fourth straight game in all competitions, 2-1 at Brighton, and slipped five points behind Liverpool in the Premier League Saturday. Liverpool beat Aston Villa 2-0 thanks to goals by Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah. Second-placed City hasn't lost four games in a row since 2006 — two years before the Abu Dhabi takeover of the club and 10 years before Guardiola's game-changing arrival on the blue side of Manchester. As for Guardiola, widely regarded as the world's best coach, he has never lost four straight matches anywhere in his illustrious time in management that began in 2007.

OFC, Mohun Bagan share spoils

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Odisha FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant played out an entertaining draw at the Kalinga Stadium in front of a record crowd Sunday. The Kalinga warriors welcomed coach Sergio Lobera and midfielder Ahmed Jahouh back on suspension. Lobera's men started on the front foot, showing their intent early on. They didn't have to wait long, with Hugo Boumous scoring with less than four minutes on the clock. Mohun Bagan SG defender Asish Rai's intentional back pass was handled by goalkeeper Vishal Kaith, and the referee gave Odisha an indirect free kick inside the box. However, the visitors picked up pace and created chances, keeping the Odisha defenders

INTENSE FACE-OFF



busy and forcing a couple of spectacular saves from custodian Amrinder Singh. Mohun Bagan equalised in the 36th minute from a corner, when Manvir Singh's header found the corner of the net despite Amrinder's effort, ensuring both teams head into the break all square. The teams showed more intent in the second half, both going for the winner. However, the deadlock remained intact

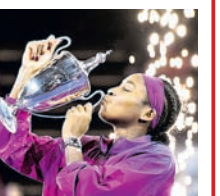


despite a host of chances taken by both teams. A stunning double save by Kaith from an Ahmed Jahouh free kick kept the teams locked at a goal apiece. While the Kalinga Warriors will be disappointed with just a point, it was a much improved display after the shock loss at Guwahati last week. The match was attended by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Expressing his delight, Majhi said, "It was a delightful experience for me to be here at the Kalinga Stadium and watch this thrilling match. The energy and enthusiasm of the football fans and spectators added to the excitement. I wish the teams the very best for their matches ahead in the ISL 2024-25." Odisha is working on creating a holistic football ecosystem so that a robust talent pathway can be created from grassroots to the elite. In the coming years, we should see Odisha contributing to the national team, he added. This result leaves Odisha FC ninth in the table heading into the international break, with nine points from eight games. They travel to Hyderabad for the next outing before welcoming league leaders Bengaluru FC at the Kalinga Stadium.

COMEBACK VICTORY

Gauff's WTA Finals title ends her season with \$4.8mn check

Riyadh: Coco Gauff pays attention to what people say about her online and occasionally takes pleasure in clapping back, so it should not be a surprise that she took to social media to type out a message after wrapping up 2024 by winning the WTA Finals and the \$4.8 million check that came with it. "Lol! Safe to say I beat the bad season allegations," Gauff wrote. After defeating the top-ranked — Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek — earlier in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Gauff got past Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2) Saturday in the title match. That allowed the No 3 Gauff to close her year with a 54-17 record and three trophies. "There's been a lot of ups and downs. At moments, it felt great. At other moments, it felt awful. Basically, a typical year on tour," the 20-year-old Floridian said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.



Sprint ace Cavendish ends cycling career in style with Singapore win

Singapore: Mark Cavendish, one of the best road sprinters in cycling history, retired in style Sunday by winning the Tour de France Criterium in Singapore. The 39-year-old from the Isle of Man broke famed Belgian cyclist Eddy Merckx's long-standing record for most career Tour de France stage wins with his 35th victory in July. Fittingly, for his final race Cavendish wore No 35 on his race jersey and won in a dash to the line for the 165th victory overall in his career. "I'm quite emotional actually," Cavendish said. "I realised in the last 5 laps that it was the last 15 kilometers (9 miles) of my career." Nicknamed the "Manx Missile," Cavendish had planned to retire after the 2023 season but changed course and returned with the goal of passing Merckx's Tour stage-win record. However, Cavendish was a pure sprinter and — being limited in the mountain stages — was never close to winning the Tour.



India look to defend title in women's ACT hockey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), Nov 10: Having struggled to win matches the entire year, the Indian women's hockey team will look to start afresh in a new Olympic cycle by defending its Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) title at home, beginning with a clash against lower-ranked Malaysia here Monday. India have won the title twice in 2016 (Singapore) and 2023 (Ranchi) in the seven editions of the tournament so far. After failing to qualify for the Paris Olympics, the Indian team lost 13 matches and won just two (with one draw) out of 16 in the women's FIH Pro League this year, but will hope to make a turnaround in their fortune with a strong performance in the ACT. India have fielded a mixed team, consisting of youth and experienced players for the tournament under the leadership of Salima Tete. Striker

FRESH START



Navneet Kaur will serve as Salima's deputy as India enter the competition with high expectations. The team will face stiff competition from five other nations, including reigning Olympic silver-medallists China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, in the battle for continental supremacy. The Indian defence will be

anchored by a solid line-up, featuring Udita, Jyoti, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke. In the mid-field, captain Tete will be supported by Neha, Sharmila Devi, Manisha Chauhan, Sunelita Topno, and Lalremsiami, all known for their dynamic play. The forward line-up has the

This tournament is a base for our future planning. ACT as on our calendar, what we want to achieve in terms of results. It will be start of journey for mission 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics

HARENDRA SINGH | CHIEF COACH

likes of Navneet Kaur, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Preeti Dubey and Beauty Dungdung leading the charge. The goalkeeping duties will be shared between the experienced Savita — also former captain — and rising talent Bichu Devi Kharibam. Sushila and Beauty Dungdung will be making a return to the team after successfully completing their rehabilitation. The Indians will definitely start as one of the favourites in the tournament, along with reigning Olympic silver medalist China, who are ranked sixth

in the world. South Korea are the most successful team in the tournament having won it thrice, while Japan had won it twice. It's the start of a new journey for the Indian women's hockey team after having missed out on qualification for the Paris Olympics. Salima's team, under new coach Harendra Singh, will aim to bury the ghosts of the past and start a new journey with LA 2028 in focus. She had captained the Indian team in the European leg of the Pro League earlier this year, where it fared poorly. After creating history in Tokyo in 2021, the team failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics this year and also performed poorly in the last FIH Pro League. "Yes, of course we were disappointed but we can't think about the past and need to move forward. We should move on because if we don't move on, we can never win a match," Salima had told.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

PCB chief in talks with govt officials after India's refusal to Pakistan travel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 10: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi Sunday initiated talks with senior government officials to discuss future course of action after ICC conveyed to PCB about India's unwillingness to tour the country for next year's Champions Trophy. The PCB confirmed that it received an e-mail from the ICC regarding India's reluctance to travel to Pakistan for the marquee tournament, even as Naqvi had earlier turned down a 'Hybrid Model'. "Mohsin Naqvi, who is the federal interior minister, is in touch with government officials and the wait is now on what directives the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif gives," a PCB official said. The official expressed his disappointment over India's stand despite Pakistan promising full-scale security for the visitors during the ICC showpiece. "It's unacceptable as there is no logical reason for India to again refuse to send its team to Pakistan. Preparations for the event are on schedule and we have already assured the ICC of all the best security arrangements for all teams including India," the official said. Meanwhile, speculations have been rife in Pakistan that the country's government is likely to direct the PCB to stop playing India in any ICC or other multi-team events starting with the Champions Trophy until the Indian government changes its policy.

Hockey Association of Odisha move forward

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 10: Hockey Association of Odisha, Le Pudukcherry Hockey, Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Maharashtra registered dominant wins in their respective pool matches on the seventh day of the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship here Sunday. Hockey Association of Odisha blanked Hockey Arunachal 9-0 in Pool E with Amandeep Lakra (5', 25'), Ajay Kumar Eka (15', 50') and Kerobin Lakra (47', 53') scoring twice each. Nilam Sanjeev Xess (11'), Pratap Lakra (23'), and Sudeep Chirmako (35') also sounded the board.